

NO.1 FOR STITCHING PLEASURE

CROSS STITCH Collection

December 2016 Issue 269

RETRO
RECIPE BOOK

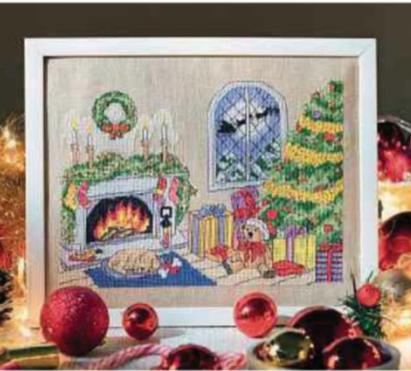
STITCHING FAVOURITES: LITTLE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Special Delivery!

BEST
FESTIVE
DESIGNS



GIANT
CHART
INCLUDED



Stitch a cosy Christmas Eve!



Pick a festive favourite!



A TOUCH
OF LACE

Stitch the prettiest
ever gift tags



PART TWO!

MEGA detail
heirloom design

In this issue...

Designs to stitch

- 8 **Festive delivery** – Capture the buzz of snowy December days
- 13 **Beautiful blue bird** – Make our needle book from the archives
- 14 **Festive food** – Make a book cover for your best recipes
- 16 **With love** – Wrap your presents with our personalised gift tags
- 20 **Bunting card** – Our bright design says thank you in style
- 22 **Winter pincushions** – Celebrate all the best things about the season with our mini cushions
- 30 **Cookies for Santa** – Stitch our playful design for your kitchen

- 34 **Oh Christmas tree** – Our glitzy tree is full of fun details
- 37 **Bird keyring** – Brighten your keys with our cute fob
- 42 **Cosy Christmas** – Snuggle up by the fire with our warm scene
- 47 **Sweet cupcake** – Make our cute card with a free download
- 48 **Warm welcome** – Stitch our rustic picture to welcome visitors to your home this Christmas
- 52 **Beautiful baubles** – Make a card, picture or ornament
- 64 **Cut Through House** – Complete your Christmas eve picture

Stitching Inspiration

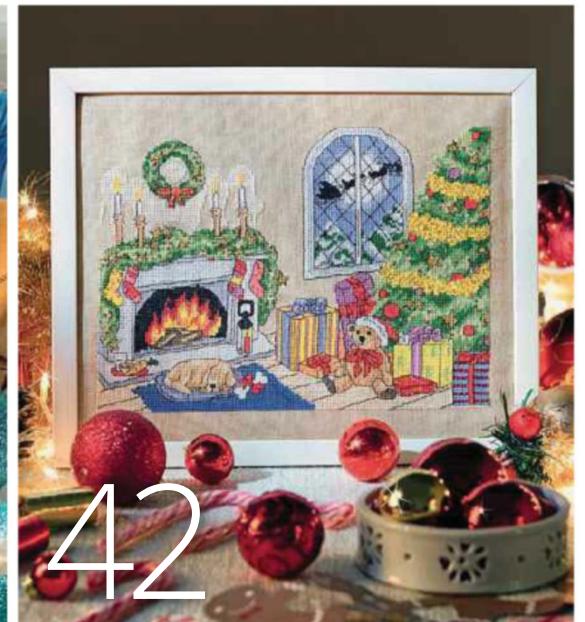
- 4 **December Collection** – Exciting news, gorgeous kits, inspiration, real stitching stories and more
- 38 **Tidings of joy** – We found out how our favourite needlework companies get set for Christmas
- 63 **Next month** – Get a peek at our stitching projects for January, including a Cocker spaniel by Jayne Netley-Mayhew

Giveaways & Offers

- 7 **Competition time** – We've got prizes worth over £65 to give away to readers
- 21 **Your letters** – Win a prize by sharing your cross stitch stories and pictures
- 28 **Subscribe** – Save 25% on the shop price with our fantastic offer and never miss an issue!
- 62 **Break time!** – Relax and enjoy our crossword. You could win a lovely book by Search Press

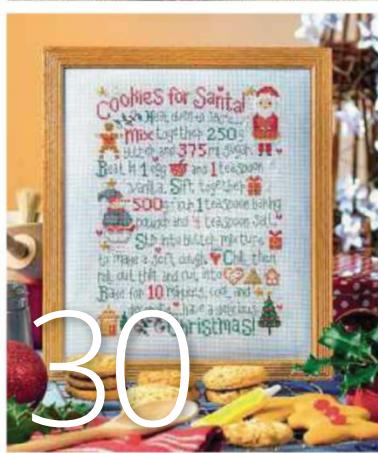
Collection Essentials

- 58 **Shopping Collection** – Seen something that's inspired you? Find out where you can buy it
- 59 **Back issues and binders** – What do you need to complete your collection?
- 60 **Stitch basics** – Our guide will show you how to get started on this month's projects





22



30



64

FREE
GIANT
CHART!



48



Welcome...

If only we could all look as elegant as our retro cover girl as she balances the perfect gifts in one hand and posts her cards with the other. She's our heroine who has the decorations in hand and no difficulty negotiating the snow in high-heeled shoes. What a lovely view of all the preparations for Christmas! This is a rather special project as there's a lot of beautiful details to revel in – the dress is trimmed in gold metallic, the coat edged in Wispers thread which you brush to look like real fur. And of course, it wouldn't be Christmas without beads!

This issue we have everything you need to bring your dream to life from a cosy Christmas Eve fireside scene (page 42) to a stitched recipe for Santa's favourite cookies (page 30) and a recipe book to jot down all the festive foods you'd like to make (page 14). Yes, we know we can't manage it all but it's good to dream and there's always next year!

Our Christmas gift to you is four special bonus charts from our archives – we hope you enjoy stitching these fun projects.

Susan & Martin Penny
Editors

Make sure you catch every beautiful stitching project in *Cross Stitch Collection* by signing up for a subscription! Not only will you get 13 issues a year delivered direct to your door, but you'll also save 25% with our subscription offers – turn to page 28 to find out how you could save up to £32!



December Collection

Be inspired by new kits, great ideas and more from the vibrant stitching world



© Lucie Heaton

Visit the stitch library

Seeking some sweet and speedy designs to while away wintery afternoons? Lucie Heaton has come up with a brilliant and very generous idea! The designer has created a free pattern library, which you can find at www.lucieheaton.com/cross-stitch-patterns-and-designs/free-easy-small-cross-stitch-patterns.

"I decided to open the library as a free resource for stitchers who are looking for quick and easy patterns that they might not be able to find anywhere else," Lucie says. "I have over a thousand of these small designs that I've produced during my designing career and I really like the idea of sharing them with my stitching fans."

Currently you can download more than 60 free PDF patterns to stitch, with hundred more motifs in the

pipeline. Designs to choose from are really diverse, ranging from an angel to a zebra! We're rather fond of the cute guinea pig design.

To download patterns from the free library, you simply need to create an account at www.lucieheaton.com, add your chosen design from the library to the cart and complete your order by using the free checkout option. Your free charts will then be available in the Downloads section of your account ready for you to print and stitch at any time. Each cross stitch pattern includes a full colour PDF chart. "I love all the photographs that people send to me of their stitching," Lucie says. "I'm always amazed by the beautiful sewing and lovely finishing ideas that people come up with – my customers are so creative!"



Meet... Online stitching stars!

Heather Bybee shares her stitching updates and pictures of Mocha the kitten over at her **Fantasy Cross Stitch** blog.

Tell us about yourself

I am currently living in southern California but am originally from Colorado. I am married with no children, but we just got a kitten who keeps us busy. I am currently working as a tutor and am working toward my Masters degree in Teaching.

When did you fall in love with cross stitch?

I fell in love with cross stitching after my second project. I started it at first as a way to keep busy because I didn't want to spend every evening just watching TV and it kind of exploded from there. I discovered cross stitch through my mom.

What sort of things do you most like to stitch?

I've always liked stitching really big projects. My first project ever was the Candy Cane Santa kit from Dimensions Gold, which taught me a lot.

What's been your biggest stitching challenge or stitching disaster?

My biggest challenge to date is my current project which is 800x202 stitches and is a gift for my cousin for her wedding. In order to personalise it I decided to add a quote, their names and the date of their wedding, so I had to create a second chart to work from. I had to enrol my husband to help me with it. I'm currently working off of two charts at the same time and it's taking me twice as long as I originally thought to finish it.



Do you have a piece that you're most proud of?

Once I finish my wedding project it will be the piece I'm the most proud of because of the challenges that went into it. I'm more than 75% done, so I'm hoping to finish it before their first anniversary.

Why did you start your blog?

I started my blog mostly just as a way to see how much progress I made and to keep track of my pieces, but I've met so many great people.

Anything to add?

One of my favourite things about stitching is dyeing my own fabrics. I saw all of the hand dyed fabrics but didn't like the cost so I decided to do my own. I watched a couple of tutorials and got to work. I love playing with the colours and it's a surprise every time seeing how they turn out.



PUT YOUR FEET UP

If you're looking for a lovely festive stitch to really absorb you, we think Bothy Threads' gorgeous Cut Thru Christmas Bothy is just the thing. Designed by Amanda Loverseed, the chart is packed with fabulous details, including an impressive array of decorative motifs, robins on the roof and in the tree, owl in the attic, a reindeer in the stable and a cat by the fire. The kit contains 14 count Zweigart aida, pre-sorted threads, 'sparkle' thread, needles, a stitch diagram and instructions. It uses full cross stitches, backstitch and some French knots. Buy it for £34.99 from www.bothythreads.com.

3 of the best... Christmas homes



Merry Christmas, £6

This stunning design sums up the anticipation of Christmas Eve as Father Christmas and his reindeers swoop above a town of colourful houses. The design uses only full cross stitch and backstitch, with 20 thread shades to keep your attention! Your finished picture will measure 200x200 stitches - a treat to settle down with on winter evenings. You can download the chart at www.StitcheryStitch.etsy.com.



Silent Night, £9

A clutch of buildings and fir trees make up a peaceful scene where the only sound is falling snow. We love the shadows stretched out from each items, emphasising the stillness of the village as everybody sleeps through the frozen night. The kit comes complete with pre-sorted threads, 16 count aida, full instructions, the chart and a gold plated needle. Buy it as a kit (£23.50) or chart pack (£9) from www.historical-samplercompany.co.uk.



Christmas Post, £9.45

Meg Evershed's latest festive card design has a charming rural feel, showing a village post office with a letterbox deep in the snow. Every detail is beautiful, from the wreath on the door to the fences and trees. The card is worked on white 14 count perforated paper. The kit contains perforated paper, backing paper, envelope, stranded cotton, needle, chart and full instructions. You can buy it at www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk.



Christmas squeakings

If you missed the release of Sophie Simpson's Cindermouse characters last year, you're in for a treat, because the trio are back, in brand new super-bright colourways! Cindermouse, the Fairy Godmouse and Mouse Charming are available as kits or patterns to sew from 100% wool felt, then pop on your mantelpiece or Christmas tree. Not an experienced sewer? Don't worry, designer Sophie is ready to guide you with her videos online. "We had a ton of feedback from people saying how they were so proud of themselves for learning something new and that they had a real sense of achievement when they finished their mice," she says. Find the patterns at www.whatdelilahdid.com and full kits at www.cloudcraft.co.uk.

Put a ring on it!

Carol Ziogas of Kimonomomo started stocking these Little House Ring Cutters after seeing them

used in Japanese silk mills by women maintaining the silk reeling machines. You can just pop it on your thumb, ready to snip threads

as you stitch – much niftier than a pair of scissors. What a cunning idea. The ring is fully adjustable (just squeeze gently until it feels comfortably secure), and should be worn on your left thumb if you're right-handed or your right thumb if you're left-handed. We think they'd make great stocking fillers for crafty friends.

Carol also sells a gorgeous array of vintage kimono fabrics that we're having trouble resisting. Get yours from

www.kimonomomo.etsy.com for £6.29.



Use this 24 carat thread for heirloom stitching.



Treat yourself

In celebration of 270 years of crafty creativity DMC have released a truly luscious limited edition skein for RRP £75. "Each skein of 24 carat gold DMC Mouliné is a mini masterpiece of craftsmanship celebrating the thread that connects a passionate global community of stitchers," says Cara Ackerman from the company. With a core of twisted silver bathed in pure 24 carat gold, every 8m skein is wax-sealed by hand using a traditional technique. The uniquely numbered golden skeins come packaged in a special presentation box with a hard-backed, illustrated book telling the story of DMC. Cara assures us that the threads are flexible enough to be used for any stitching project, but we recommend saving it for something truly special. You can find stockists at www.dmccreative.co.uk.

Competition time

We've got prizes worth over £65 to give away to readers of *Cross Stitch Collection*

Over
£65
of prizes to
be won!

Concorde over Clifton Bridge

If you remember Concorde's last flight or you are a lover of air travel memorabilia, then this lovely kit by Sybilla Davis is for you. Concorde is shown flying low over Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol, and the kit, which is on 14 count ivory aida, comes with stranded cotton, chart and instructions (RRP £15.99). The finished size of the design is approximately 21x16cm. For more details of this kit and other west country designs visit www.sybilladavis.co.uk. We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Concorde giveaway CSC269.



WORTH
£15.99

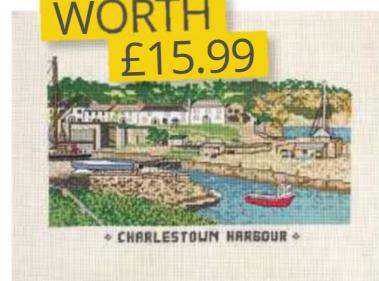
Charlestown Harbour

One of the locations used in Poldark is Charlestown, which was built in the 1790's for the export of china clay, copper and tin, and is now a popular film location. This kit shows the harbour, well known for the Square Sail's fleet of square-rigged tall ships, and the port was named after its developer Charles Rashleigh when it was purpose built in the 1790s. Charlestown Harbour is available from Sybilla Davis, and the kit (RRP £15.99) comes with ivory aida, DMC stranded cotton, needle, a colour chart and full instructions. The finished design measures 25x16cm. Contact www.sybilladavis.co.uk

for details.

We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Charlestown Kit giveaway CSC269.

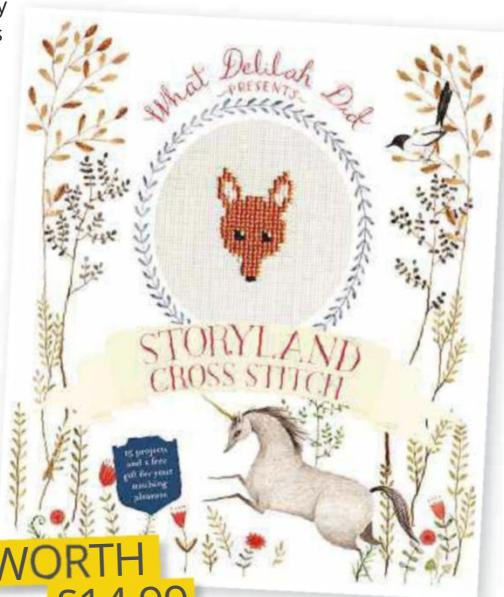


WORTH
£15.99

What Delilah Did

One lucky winner will receive a copy of *What Delilah Did Storyland Cross Stitch*. This beautifully illustrated book contains 15 lovely projects that let your imagination run wild as you explore the world of beasties and fairytale magic from long ago. The book has a small kit containing fabric and thread to get you started, and most of the projects are great for beginners, with clear charts and easy to follow making up instructions. *Storyland Cross Stitch* is published by Collins & Brown in paperback (£14.99), and is available from Amazon and booksellers.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry *What Delilah Did Storyland* giveaway CSC269.



WORTH
£14.99

Welcome Sampler

This lovely sampler is a great way to welcome guests to your home or B&B. A pretty combination of pinks, mauves, whirls and swirls, this kit comes with Zweigart 14 count ivory aida, DMC thread, needle, a clear colour chart with symbols, and a completion slip to add your name and date to the back of your work. The design measures 22x17cm when stitched, and is available from www.lifetimesamplers.co.uk.

The kit is £21.50 and the chart pack £7.95. We have one kit to give away.

Enter by post to the address below, labelling your entry Welcome Sampler giveaway CSC269.



WORTH
£21.50

How To Enter

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope and send to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open 11 November – 8 December. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59. Please feel free to enter multiple draws on one postcard.



Meet the designer...

Shannon Wasilieff

Almost everyone can relate to the hustle and bustle of the season, running into people who you haven't seen in a while. I wanted to capture that in this design, with my lady reaching for the post box and turning around as if she heard her name from a friend, who could also be on their way to the Christmas party. My colour palette was inspired by a gorgeous vintage Christmas card from the 1950s that used teal and pink with gold accents and just a hint of the usual go-to colours of Christmas.

I've used Wisper thread to add some lovely texture to the stitching. To fluff up the Wisper thread to its full fuzziness, I recommend stitching it, then running a clean toothbrush along the stitching.

Festive delivery

Our 1950s Christmas lady designed by **Shannon Wasilieff** celebrates the excitement of snowy December days



Our stunning design captures the feeling of heading off to a Christmas party in all our finery – even if in real life we never get the opportunity to wear such a fabulous dress! Our design uses fuzzy Wisper thread to add a bit of fluffiness to the fur details. The picture also uses Kreinik blending filament and seed beads for extra dimension, as well as backstitch and French knot details.

You could stitch the stack of presents as a festive gift tag or use the letter box from the design to make a wintery bookmark as a Christmas present.



Capture the feeling
of heading off
to a Christmas party



Beads and
fluffy trim make
our design a feast
for the eyes.

Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 25 count Lugana pewter, ref: 3835/713,
51x51cm (20x20in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Kreinik blending filament 002 gold HL

Rainbow Gallery Wisper W88 white

Mill Hill beads as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 31x30cm (12 1/4x11 3/4in aperture)

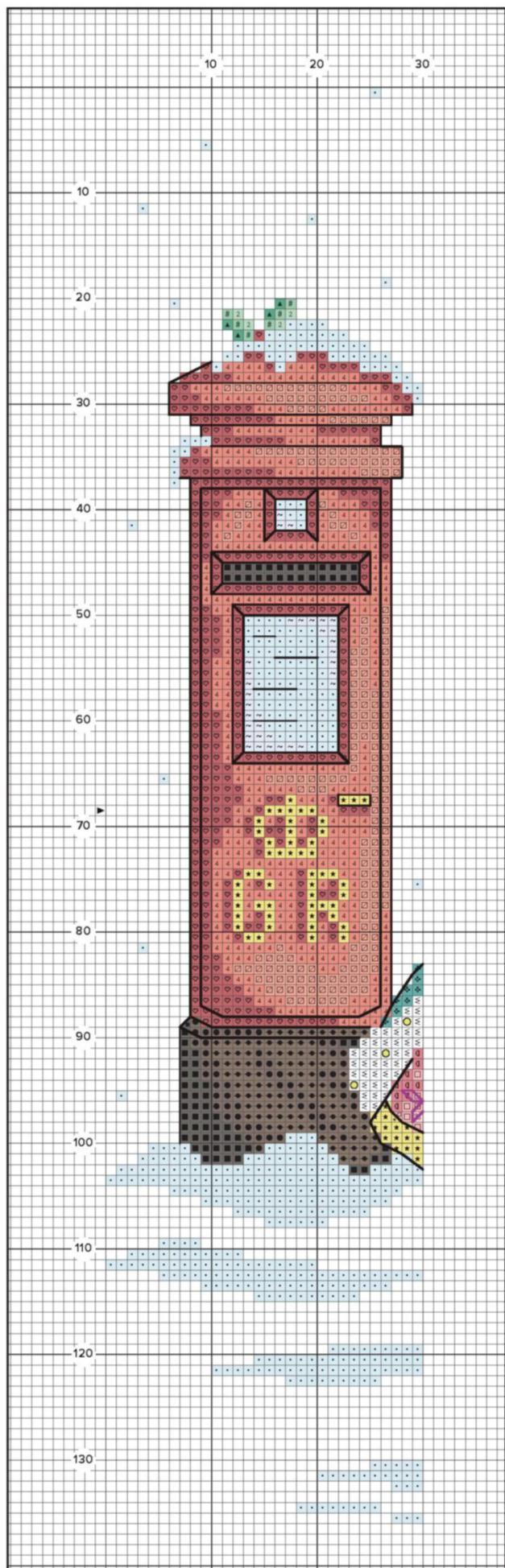
For stockist details see page 58

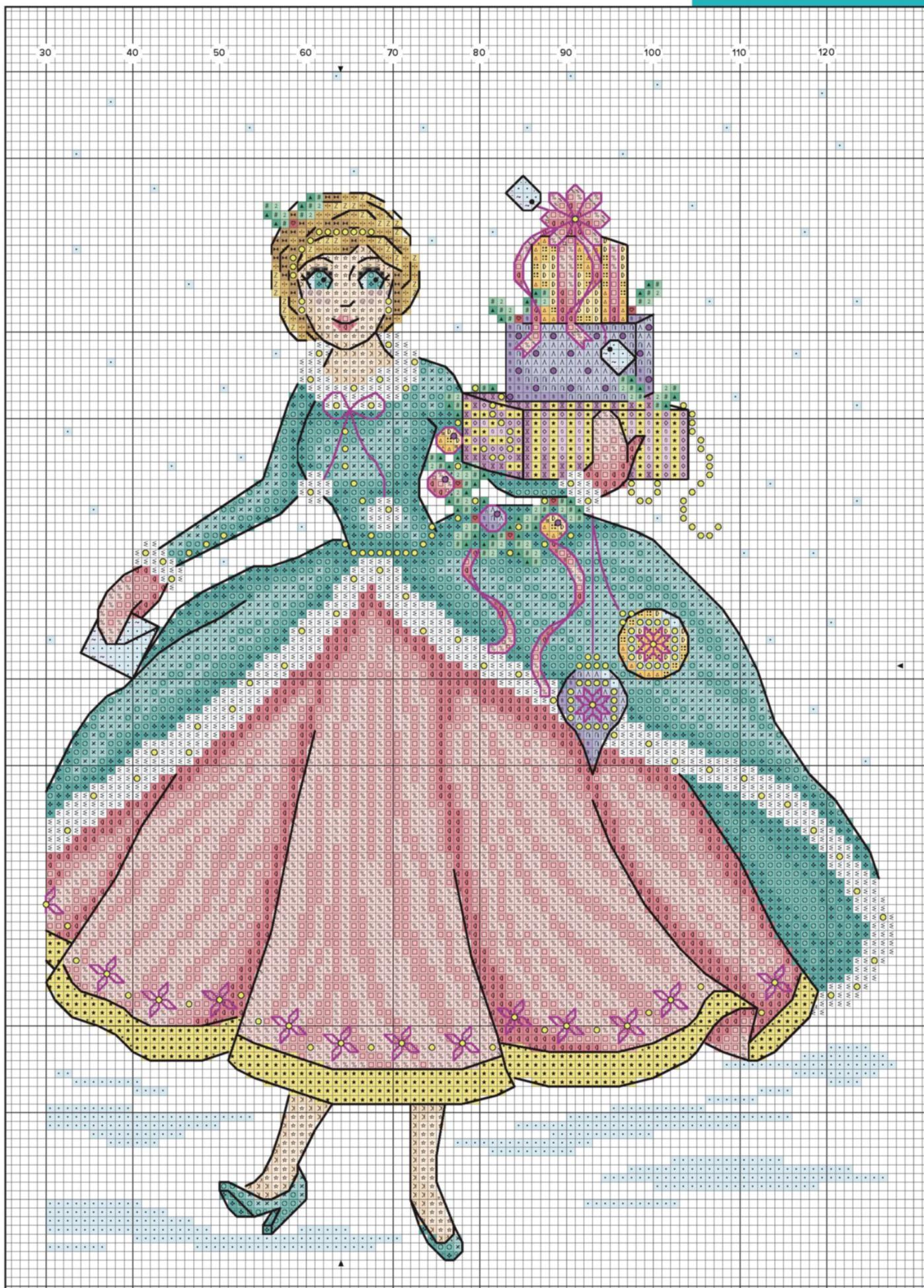
Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton or Kreinik blending filament for the cross stitch. The Rainbow Gallery Wisper thread is used for the fur trim on the coat. Use two strands, following the chart for placement.

Adding the detail

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch using one strand of stranded cotton for the main areas of the design, and one strand of the gold blending filament for the ribbons and pattern on her dress. Add French knots using one strand and then attach the beads, which are in two colours, using matching sewing thread.







Go slowly with the backstitch on your lady's face as these details will bring her to life.

Special delivery

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	209	109	803	dark lavender
	210	108	802	med lavender
	311	148	1006	m navy blue
	335	038	506	rose
	340	118	902	blue violet
	341	117	901	lt blue violet
	351	010	214	coral
	352	009	303	lt coral
	742	303	114	lt tangerine
	743	030	2294	yellow
	745	300	111	v pale yellow
	775	1031	1001	lt baby blue
	782	308	2212	burnt orange
	801	359	2007	m brown
	817	013	211	dk coral
	818	073	502	baby pink (2)
	819	271	501	lt baby pink
	898	360	2006	v dk brown
	910	228	1301	dk emerald green
	951	1010	2308	lt tawny
	954	202	1211	nile green
	955	206	1210	lt nile green
	959	186	1113	seagreen
	964	1092	1112	lt seagreen
	3326	036	504	dk dusty pink
	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	3747	120	907	lt blue violet
	3770	1009	978	v lt tawny
	3812	188	2706	dk seagreen
	3820	306	2509	dk straw

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	3822	295	2511	lt straw
	b5200	001	white	bright white

Cross stitch Rainbow Gallery Wispers

	W088	white
--	------	-------

Cross stitch in Kreinik blending filament

	0002	gold HL
--	------	---------

Backstitch in one strand

	3371	382	2004	dark brown
outlines				

Backstitch in Kreinik blending filament

	0002	gold HL
ribbons, bows		

French knots in one strand

	3371	382	2004	dark brown
tags, eyes				

Mill Hill seed beads

	02011	victorian gold
dress decoration		
	02058	crayon white

Stitched using DMC threads on 25 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 128hx137w

Design size: 25.5x26.5cm (10x10½in)

Stitch time: 55hrs



FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

You will need...

14 count aida ivory, 9x7cm (3½x2¾in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Peach felt 10x15cm (4x6in)

Blue felt 10x15cm (4x6in) x 2

Teal ribbon 6mm x 25cm (10in)

Size 24 tapestry needle

For stockist details see page 58

Beautiful blue bird

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	351	010	214	coral
	353	006	303	peach
	834	945	2204	olive
	869	944	2105	dk hazelnut brown
	3810	168	1108	dk turquoise
	3811	1060	1101	lt turquoise
	blanc	001	white	white

Backstitch in one strand

	869	944	2105	dk hazelnut brown
	3808	1068	2507	dk turquoise

outlines

French knots in one strand

	351	010	214	coral
stamens				

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida.

Stitch count: 42hx29w

Design size: 8x5.5cm (3½x2½in)

Stitch time: 3hrs

Beautiful blue bird

Add a touch of luxury to your sewing workbox with our beautiful bird needle case kit

Stitching the design

STITCH the design using two strands for the cross stitch, and one strand for the backstitch.

Make a needle case

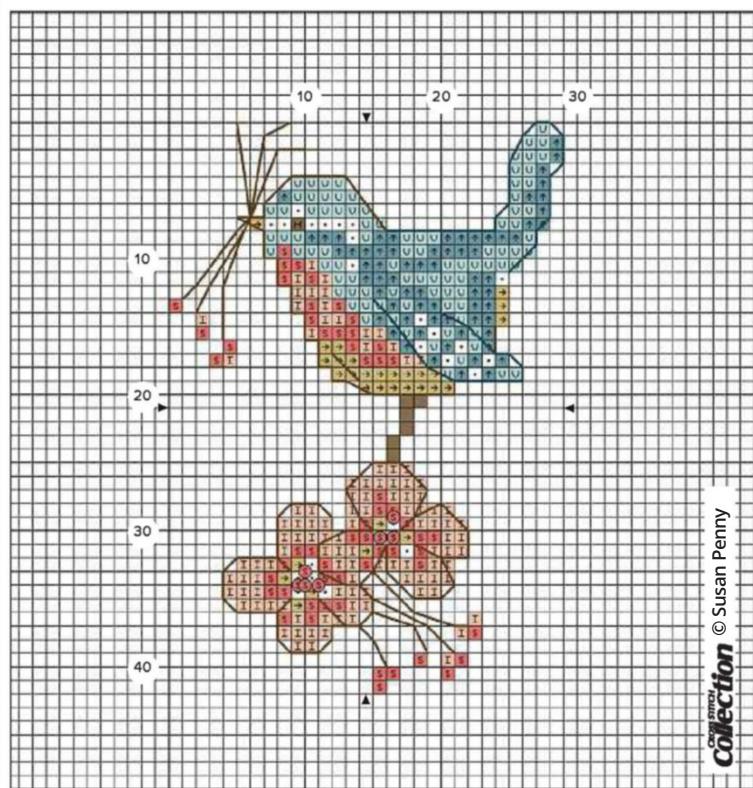
1 **FOLD** the peach felt in half lengthways and cut your stitching to fit the front when folded.

Pin, then use two strands to attach the stitching to the felt using running stitches as shown above.

2 **PIN** the blue felt leaves inside the needle case. Sew down the spine of the needle case, through all the layers, using small running stitches.

3 **CUT** the ribbon in half and stitch one piece firmly to the inside front cover, halfway down the opening edge. Repeat for the back, and tie in a bow.

Our lovely bird would look pretty mounted in a card for a friend



Festive food

Our recipe book designed by Maria Diaz is the perfect place to stash your signature Christmas dishes



Adapt the dimensions of your aida to cover any size book.

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida platinum, ref: 3706/770, 23.5x40.5cm (9½x16in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 24 tapestry needle

Lining fabric 23.5x40.5cm (9½x16in)

Notebook 21x13cm (8¼x5¼in)

For stockist details see page 58

Make a recipe book cover

1 **WRAP** your aida around the notebook to check the position of the front cover and then mark the design area given above on to the fabric using pins. Make sure you have left 1.25cm (½in) at the top and bottom of the fabric for turnings, and 6cm (2½in) on the left and right hand side for the flaps, centring the design between the flaps and the turnings on the book front. If you work on a slightly



© Maria Diaz
Collection



Make your finished stitching into an apron if you prefer.

Festive food

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	159	120	901	lt cornflower blue
	304	1006	509	xmas red
	350	011	213	med coral
	352	009	303	lt coral
	434	310	2009	brown
	436	1045	2011	lt brown
	703	238	1307	lime green
	754	336	305	lt peach
	911	205	1214	m emerald green
	948	1011	306	v lt peach
	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue
	b5200	001	white	bright white
	E3852			light effects gold

Backstitch in one strand

	350	011	213	med coral
	407	914	2310	dk desert sand
	844	1041	1810	dk beaver grey

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric.
Stitch count: 55hx76w
Design size: 10x12cm (4x4¾in)
Stitch time: 9hrs

Tip... Right first time

Double-check that you'll be stitching in the correct position on your fabric – it's easy to accidentally stitch the design on the back cover!

larger piece of fabric you can cut this to size once the stitching is complete.

2 **CUT** your lining fabric to the size given above, and then repeat with the stitched fabric, checking that when you cut the evenweave, the design is in the centre of the front cover, and that you still have the turnings and flaps for making up.

3 **PLACE** the stitched fabric and the lining right sides together, and stitch around the outer edge with 1.25cm (½in) seam allowance, leaving a gap on one short edge for turning.

4 **TURN** to the right side. Press flat and then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.

Wrap the cover around your notebook, folding the side flaps over the cover edge and onto the inside of the notebook. Catch stitch the flaps in place on the top and bottom edges, using small, neat stitches. Push the book covers into flaps and wrap around the notebook.

With love

Make your Christmas presents even more special with our personalised gift tags designed by **Durene Jones**

It's the personal touches that make giving and receiving presents a special part of Christmas. Our stitched gift tags, complete with lace trim, are just the thing to let someone know how much you care about them.

You can use our alphabet chart to add your own message underneath the Christmas designs. If you are keen to reduce waste, you could make a tag for each member of your family and use the same tags for your presents every year. You could go one step further and make reusable wrapping paper by hemming large squares of festive fabric.



Stitch a tag

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel blue, ref: 3281/513, 11.5x8.5cm (4½x3¼in) for each tag
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Backing fabric 11.5x8.5cm (4½x3¼in) for each tag
Lace edging 20mm (¾in) x 15cm (6in) for each tag
Ribbon 3mm x 15cm (6in) for each tag
Cardboard template 6x8cm (2½x3¼in) for each tag

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch. Complete all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch using one strand of stranded cotton. Add the words of your choice in backstitch, using the alphabet provided.

Make a tag

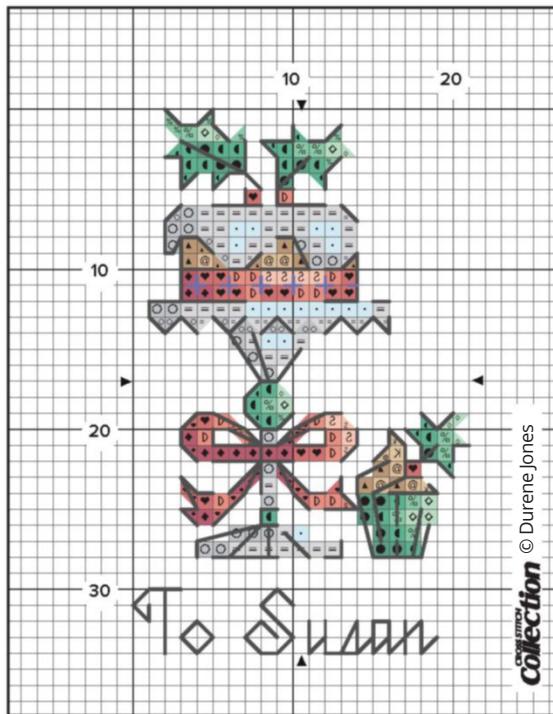
1 CUT a 6x8cm rectangle of cardboard. Place your stitching and backing fabric right-sides together, and trace around your cardboard with the stitching in the centre. Stitch along the marked rectangle, leaving the bottom open. Trim the seams, clip the corners and turn to the right side. Press, then insert the cardboard template. Fold in the bottom raw edges, and then sew up with small, stitches.

2 SEW lace onto the bottom of the tag, so that the seam is at the back. Attach ribbon to the centre top of the tag and use to attach to your gift, or tie in a bow for decoration.





Plan your words on graph paper first to get them just right.



With love

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

◆◆	304	1006	509	xmas red
♥♥	349	013	212	dk coral
D D	351	010	214	coral
S S	353	006	303	peach
O O	415	398	1803	pearl grey
▲▲	435	1046	2010	med brown
@@	437	362	2012	lt tan
0 0	712	926	2101	cream
K K	738	361	2013	v lt tan
= =	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
●●	909	230	1302	emerald green
◀◀	911	205	1214	m emerald green
% %	913	204	1212	nile green
◊◊	955	206	1210	lt nile green
· ·	b5200	001	white	bright white

Backstitch in one strand

—	413	401	1713	dk pewter grey outlines
—	b5200	001	white	bright white decoration

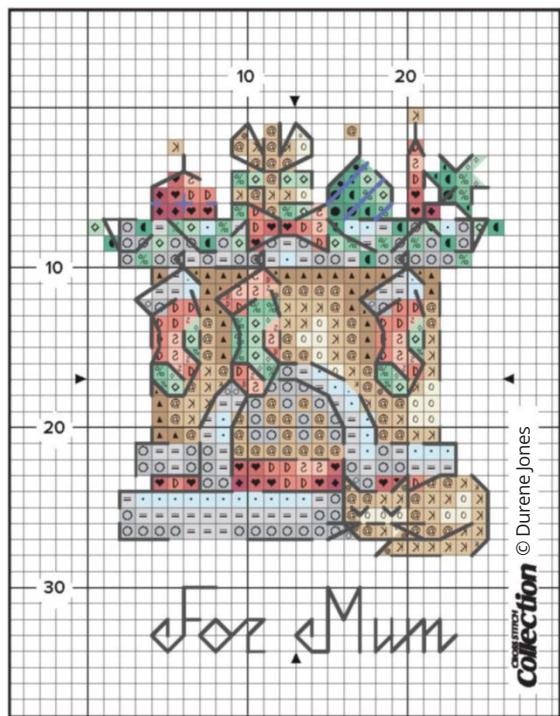
Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 34hx21w cake; 35hx22w stocking;

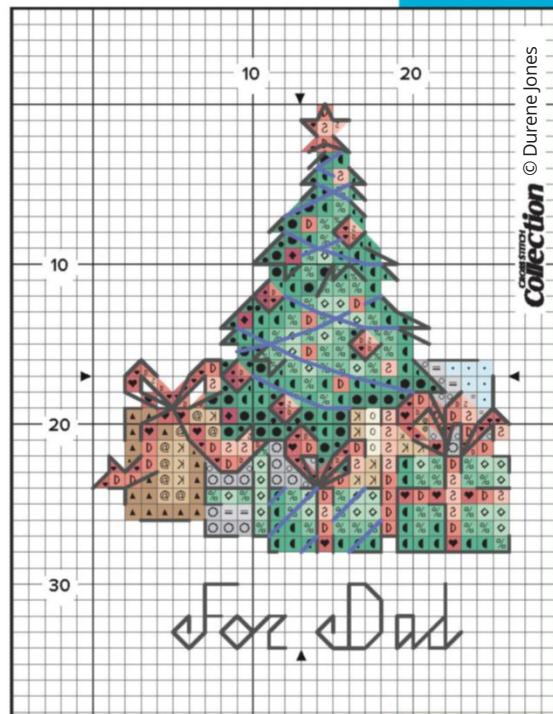
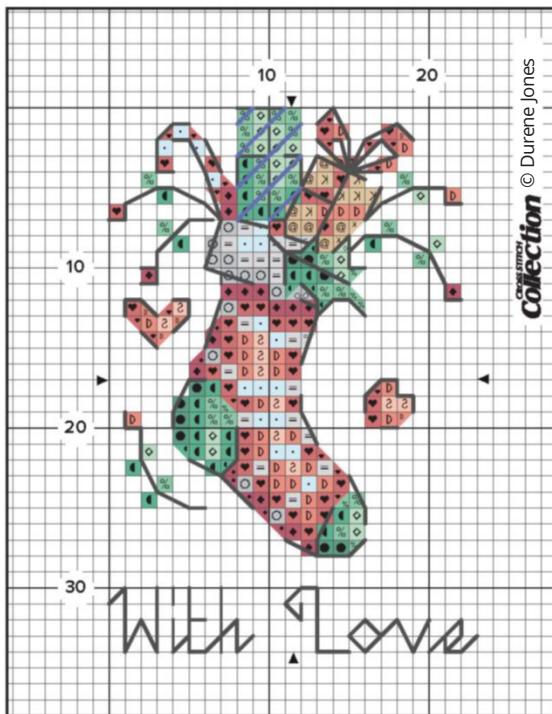
34hx26w fireplace; 34hx26w tree

Design size: 6x4.5cm (2½x1¾in) max

Stitch time: 36hrs all four



With love



“You could use our gift tags design as place cards for Christmas dinner by simply tying the ribbon around a shiny cracker”



Tip... Add a metal eyelet

To make a hole to lace ribbon or yarn through, you could add a metal eyelet. You'll find eyelets in lots of colours from most craft shops. Look for a starter kit that comes complete with a setting tool as well as eyelets. Remember to make a hole in your cardboard template and mark its location on your fabric before you put it into your tag.

Bunting card

Show your gratitude with our bright card made with fabulous stitched flags designed by **Susan Penny**



FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

You will need...

14 count aida white 5.5x4cm (2½x1½in) x 5

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 24 tapestry needle

Iron-on Vilene 5.5x4cm (2½x1½in) x 5

Downloaded card

Baker's twine

Stitching the design

STITCH your flags using two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch and one strand for the backstitch.

Make a bunting card

1 **DOWNLOAD** the card design, template and full instructions from www.willowfabrics.com.

Iron the Vilene to the back of each flag and cut out using the downloaded template.

2 **FOLD** over the blank aida squares at the top of each flag and use double-sided tape or a few stitches to secure over the baker's twine. Attach the twine to the front of your card using strong glue. Make two small twine bows and glue at either end.

Bunting card

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	335	038	506	rose
	552	100	713	med violet
	741	304	201	med tangerine
	743	030	2294	yellow
	907	255	1410	lt parrot green
	3766	167	1111	peacock blue
	3865	002	2402	winter white

Backstitch in one strand

	335	038	506	rose union jack
	743	030	2294	yellow blue flag
	907	255	1410	lt parrot green cherry flag

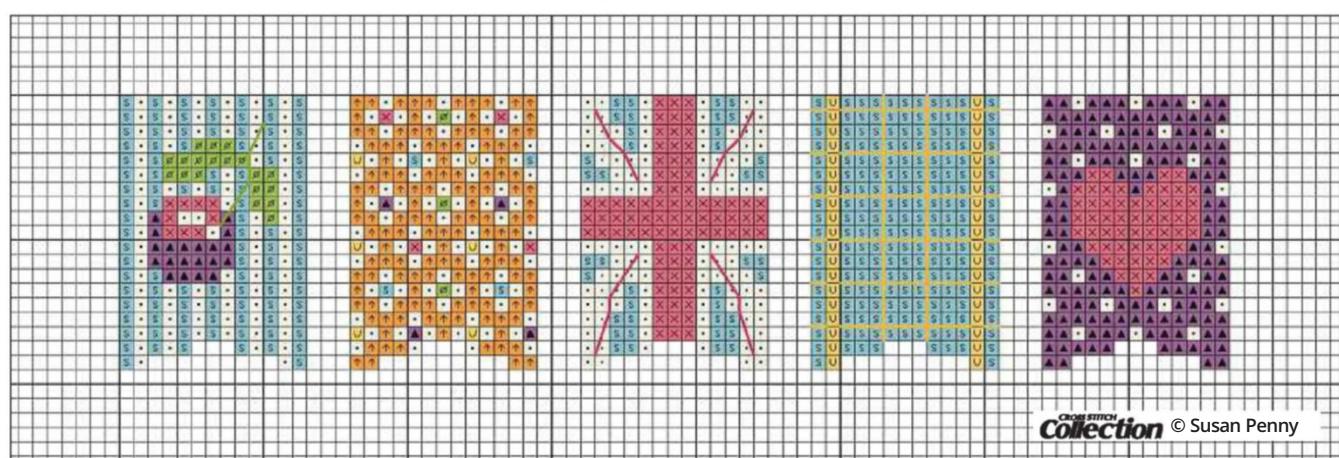
Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida.

Stitch count: 19hx13w each

Design size: 3.5x2.5cm (1½x1in) each

Stitch time: 1.5 hours each

String your flags between two skewers to make a cake banner.



CROSS STITCH Collection © Susan Penny

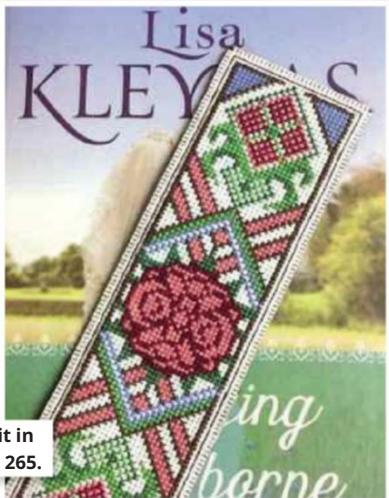
Your letters

Write to Cross Stitch Collection Letters, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY.

Or email us at CSC@dennis.co.uk with your stitching stories

Star letter

The winner of our star letter will receive *In a Weekend*, containing over 50 fun projects, which will help you create unique Christmas decor and clever gift ideas. Each of the designs can easily be made in a weekend using the most affordable and accessible materials. This fabulous book is published by Search Press, RRP £6.99. Well done Lisa, who will be getting her book very soon.



Find it in
issue 265.

Wedding bells

My best friend is getting married this year and I'm her Maid of Honour. I wanted to stitch a special wedding gift. I searched for a long time, and when I saw this beautiful wedding project on Cross Stitch Collection's facebook page I knew I had found the right thing. This wedding project was a challenge for me because I've never stitched on evenweave, or with beads and metallic thread. I thought it might be too much for me but it was such a gorgeous project and I love it.

Ewa Staniec-Januszek, Poland

Collection says What a gorgeous project, Ewa! I'm sure your friend will love it.



Beautiful bookmark

I've just finished this project from August's issue. This was the first time I had worked a project off my iPad edition of the magazine and I stitched it over a couple of weeks working on it in bed just before going to sleep. I thoroughly enjoyed working this project and this particular colour palette – I think it makes a most effective design. I had no problems whatsoever, but did decide to finish it in a method I am more familiar with, which is just backing it with felt.

Lisa Bergin, Gloucestershire

Collection says Thanks so much for sharing your glorious bookmark, Lisa.



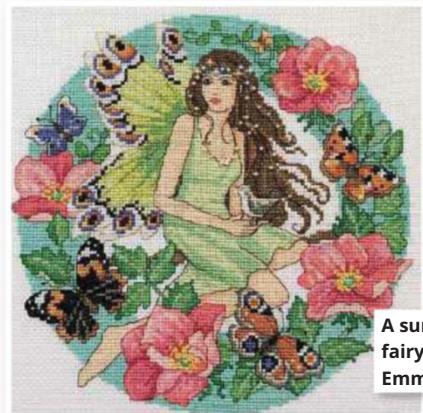
Wedding sampler by Ewa.

Summer fairy

Here is my latest finished project – Summer Fairy by Lesley Teare. There was so much detail to this project, a lot of beads, French knots, gold thread and backstitch, but I enjoyed it very much. I decided to frame it on a canvas. The backstitch really brought it to life. It's going to hang in my craft room! I just love her and plan to do more Lesley Teare fairies.

Emma Wright, Devon

Collection says What a lovely bit of summer stitching to brighten a dreary Autumn day, Emma.



A sunny
fairy by
Emma.

Send us your news...



We love to get your letters and photos, so put pen to paper and get writing today.

Email us at:

csc@dennis.co.uk

marking your email Letters Page.

or write to:

Cross Stitch Collection Letters,
PO Box 172, Northam,
EX39 9DY

Happy stitching!

The Collection Team

Winter pincushions

Celebrate the best things about winter with our Christmas pincushions designed by **Sheena Rogers**



The third instalment of our seasonal pincushions series features six Christmas scenes, each with a lovely wintery border to match. They would make perfect Christmas presents for your sewing circle, or you could attach a ribbon hanging loop into the top seam as you make them up and display them on a Christmas tree or door wreath. The designs are also just the right size for Christmas cards for your nearest and dearest. If you missed our summer or autumn pincushions by Sheena, you can find them in issues 263 and 267 respectively. ➤

Stitch our winter pincushions as gifts for your crafty friends





Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida white, ref: 3706/100,

12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) for each cushion

Black velvet fabric 12.5x12.5cm (5x5in) for each cushion

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 24 tapestry needle

Toy stuffing

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton and the backstitch in one strand.

Make the pin cushion

1 **PLACE** the stitching and the backing fabric right-sides together, and stitch around the edge with a 1.5cm (½in) seam allowance, leaving a small gap on one side for turning.

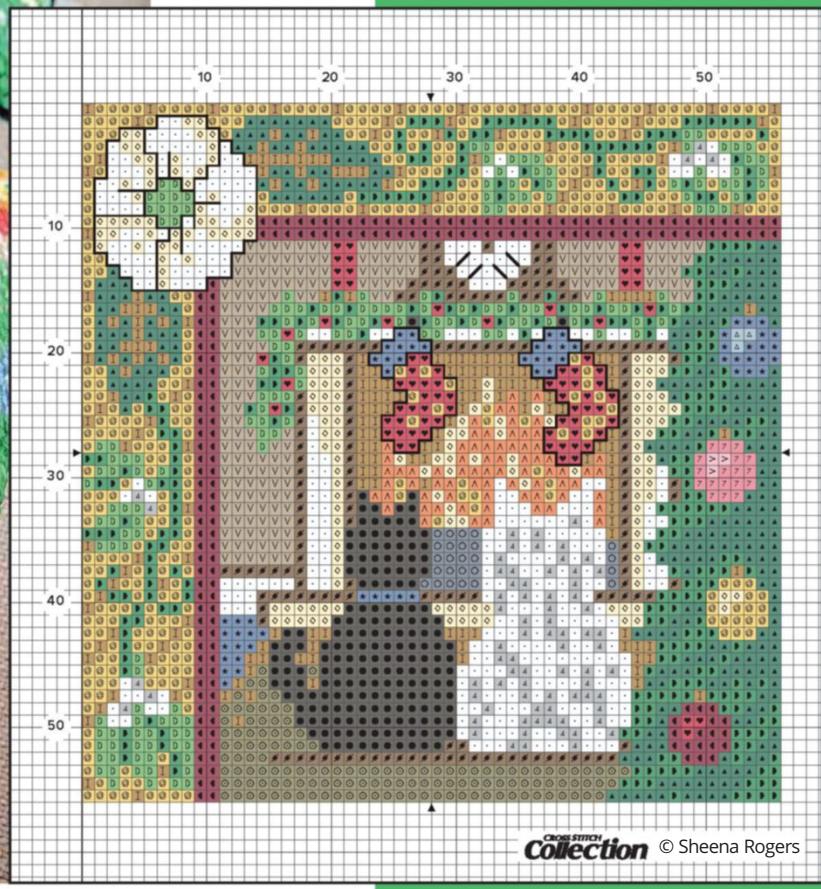
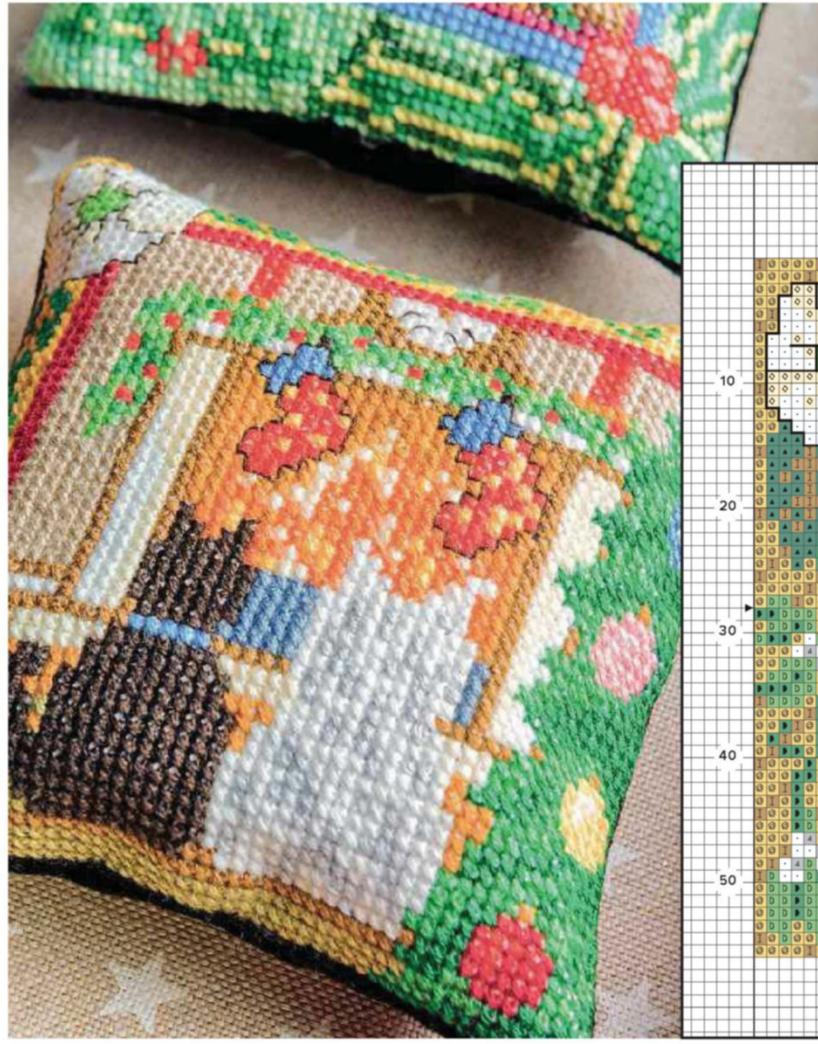
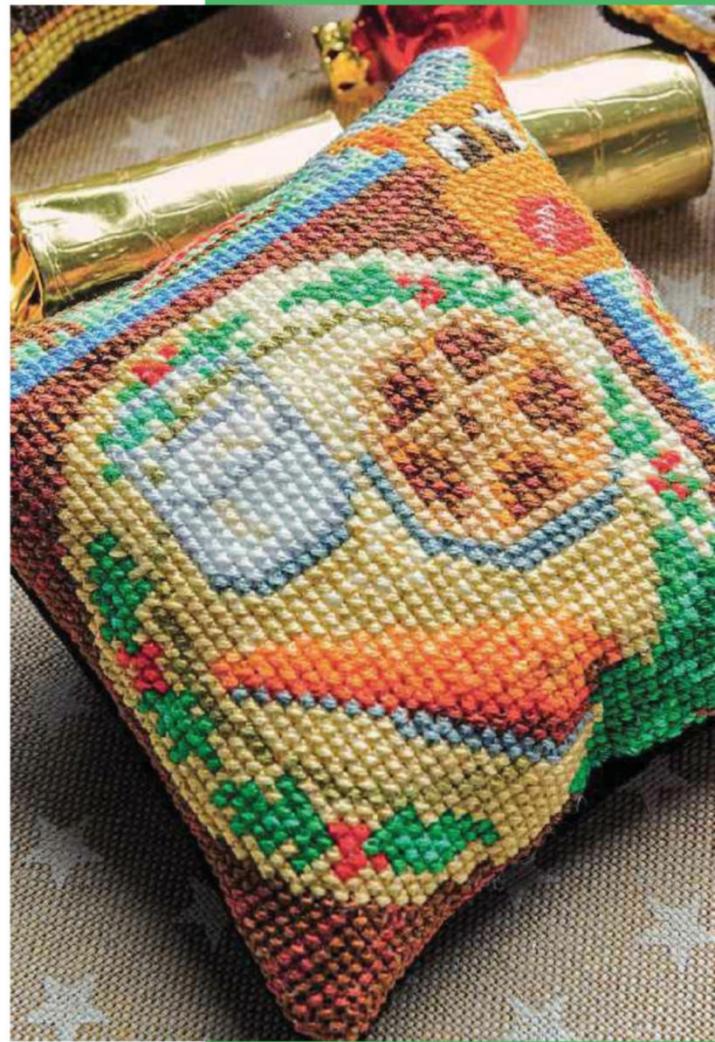
2 **TRIM** the seam allowance and clip the corners before turning through to the right side.

Stuff firmly with toy stuffing, then sew up the gap with small neat stitches.



“Our pincushions celebrate the best things about winter”





Winter pincushions



Tip... Stitch from your stash

As the aida is completely covered in this design, you can use any colour from your stash.



“Add a ribbon to the top to make your cushions into tree decorations”



Winter pincushions

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

0 0	164	240	1209	lt forest green
n n	165	278	1414	lt avacado
4 4	415	398	1803	pearl grey
= =	422	943	2102	lt brown
● ●	434	310	2009	brown
● ●	498	1005	511	dk xmas red
◆ ◆	611	898	2107	drab brown
♥ ♥	666	046	210	bright red
▲ ▲	699	923	1303	xmas green
◀ ▶	700	228	1304	bright xmas green
▷ ▷	701	227	1305	lt xmas green
▷ ▷	703	238	1307	lime green
Λ Λ	721	324	308	m spice orange
@@	743	030	2294	yellow
I I	782	308	2212	burnt orange
★ ★	826	161	1012	med blue
△ △	827	160	1014	v lt blue
⚡ ⚡	869	944	2105	dk hazelnut brown
◎ ◎	895	1044	1405	hunter green
■ ■	898	360	2006	v dk brown
& &	900	333	208	burnt orange
₭ ₭	912	209	1213	lt emerald green
☒ ☒	926	850	1707	m grey green
○ ○	931	921	1711	antique blue

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

7 7	962	075	609	med dusty rose
◎ ◎	3012	844	1606	m khaki green
2 2	3046	887	2206	lt sandy yellow
● ●	3371	382	2004	dark brown
■ ■	3685	1028	602	dk mauve
> >	3689	049	607	lt mauve
# #	3712	1024	405	m dusty pink
8 8	3776	1048	310	lt mahogany
V V	3782	899	1911	lt mocha
◊ ◊	3823	386	2512	pale yellow
~ ~	3847	1076	2057	dk teal green
Ξ Ξ	3852	307	2509	dk straw
♡ ♡	3854	313	2301	med autumn goldr
⚡ ⚡	3857	936	811	dk rosewood
x x	ecru	387	ecru	ecru (2)
· ·	blanc	002	white	white

Backstitch in one strand

— 3371 382 2004 dark brown
outlines

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida fabric.
Stitch count: 56hx56w for each cushion
Design size: 10.5x10.5cm (4½x4½in) for each cushion
Stitch time: 15hrs for each cushion

Put a mini cushion in each setting as a table gift for Christmas dinner guests.

Choose your subscription package

Print + Digital Package



- Get 6 print and digital issues for just £27.39
- Save over 25% on the shop price
- FREE Giant fold out chart
- Save 79% on digital access
- Access your magazine on the go
- Free delivery
- Challenging new projects every month
- Get your copy before it hits the shops

Order at

dennismags.co.uk/crossstitchcollection
and enter offer code **D1613B**

Print Only Package



- Get 6 print issues for just £22.39
- FREE Giant fold out chart
- Save over 25% on the shop price
- Free delivery
- Challenging new projects every month
- Get your copy before it hits the shops

Order at

dennismags.co.uk/crossstitchcollection
and enter offer code **D1613P**

Overseas subscriber?

Visit dennismags.co.uk/crossstitchcollection

Or call **+44 (0)1795 592 966**

For **Print + Digital Package** quote offer code **P1613BO**

Or for **Print Only Package** quote offer code **P1613PO**

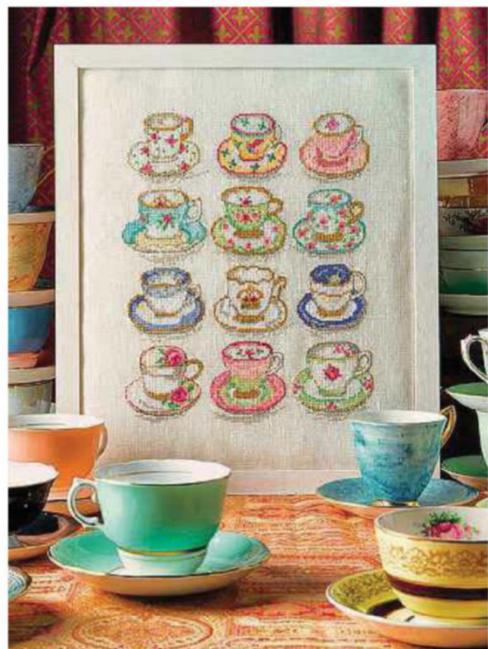


Save 25%

when you subscribe

Cross Stitch Collection will whisk you away to another world where you can lose yourself stitching the most beautiful designs for home, friends and family. Along with top quality charts, we bring you all the latest cross stitch stories to read and enjoy. Don't miss out!

Packed with great
projects every issue!



Visit: **dennismags.co.uk/crossstitchcollection**
Or call **0844 826 5018**

Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge

For **Print + Digital Package** quote offer code **D1613B**
Or for **Print Only Package** quote offer code **D1613P**

Cookies for Santa

Stitch our fun festive design by **Gail Bussi**
to add a touch of Christmas magic to your kitchen

Start a new tradition this year by hanging this picture in your kitchen and making cookies for Santa with your children or grandchildren. Our playful design is packed full of jolly motifs that you could use to make a set of matching aprons for you and your fellow bakers.

Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 14 count aida vintage blue,
ref: 3706/5139, 46x40.5cm (18x16in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Kreinik braid as listed in the key

Size 24 tapestry needle

Frame with a 30.5x25.5cm (12x10in aperture)

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton or Kreinik braid in gold or white for the cross stitch.

Adding the detail

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and French knots using one strand of stranded cotton or Kreinik braid in the colours listed in the key.



Our festive design is packed full of jolly Christmas motifs

★ Cookies for Santa! ★

Heat oven to 180°C...

Mix together 250g butter and 375ml sugar.

Beat in 1 egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Sift together 500g flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt.

Stir into butter mixture to make a soft dough. Chill, then roll out thin and cut into shapes.

Bake for 10 minutes, cool, and decorate... have a delicious Christmas!





Make gift tags using the motifs from our fun design.

Cookies for Santa

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

◆◆	347	1025	407	v dk red
==	353	006	303	peach
■■	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
△△	415	398	1803	pearl grey
⊕⊕	435	1046	2010	med brown
ƧƧ	437	362	2012	lt tan
●●	561	212	1205	dk jade
◐◐	839	1086	1913	dk beige brown
◊◊	922	1003	310	med russet
##	926	850	1707	m grey green
○○	951	1010	2308	lt tawny
♥♥	3328	1024	406	dk salmon
●●	3768	779	1712	dk grey green
►►	3815	877	1205	dk celadon green
≤≤	3817	875	1111	lt celadon green
××	3865	002	2402	winter white

Kreinik braid no 4 cross stitch in two strands

▪▪	100	white
★★	002	gold

Backstitch in one strand

—	347	1025	407	v dk red
				numbers

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Backstitch in one strand

—	561	212	1205	dk jade
				words

—	839	1086	1913	dk beige brown
				branches

Kreinik braid no 4 backstitch in one strand

—	100	white
		snowflakes

—	002	gold
		star trails

French knots in one strand

●●	347	1025	407	v dk red
				decoration

●●	413	401	1713	dark pewter grey
				eyes

●●	561	212	1205	dk jade
				dots and full stops

●●	002	gold		
				decoration

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 aida fabric.

Stitch count: 140hx105w

Design size: 26x19.5cm (10½x7¾in)

Stitch time: 20hrs

cookies for Santa!

Heat oven to 180°C...

Mix together 250 g

bulleh ahd 375 ml Sugāṛ.

Beat in 1 egg and 1 teaSpoon

Vanilla. Sift together

+ 300g flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Salt.

Stir into butter mixture

to make a soft dough.  Stir, then

roll out thin and cut into

Bake for 10 minutes, cool and

Decorate... have a delicious

It's Christmas!

Oh Christmas Tree

Our glitzy design by **Zwiegart** is the perfect complement to traditional Christmas decorations



Stitch our elegant Christmas tree design to add a hint of Christmas glamour to any room of the house. One of the things we love about this design is how easy it would be to customise to your Christmas colour scheme – just swap out the colour of the evenweave and the cross stitch that makes the Christmas tree to completely change the palette.

The lightweight embroidery hoop frame without any glass also makes this design the perfect gift to send in the post to far-flung friends and family. Get stitching now to finish before the last posting dates!

More designs **from Zwiegart**



If you like this you'll love the other projects in *Zwiegart Book 253, Christmas Season*. There are lots more chart books available filled with beautiful projects for your home. Available from *Zwiegart stockists*.



Paint your
hoop gold for
some extra glitz

Stitch your Christmas tree

You will need...

Zweigart 18 count Davosa emerald green, ref: 3770/630, 30.5x30.5cm (12x12in)
Stranded cotton as listed in the key
DMC light effects as listed in the key
Size 26 tapestry needle
Wooden embroidery hoop 20cm (8in) diameter
For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, one strand for the backstitch and French knots.

Make up your hoop

- 1 TRIM** your stitching into a circle slightly larger than your hoop. Place the inside hoop beneath your stitching and place the outer hoop on top. Centre and press over your work. Pull taut and tighten the screw.
- 2 TURN** your stitching to the reverse, and then **cut** a piece of felt to fit inside the inner hoop. Place the felt in the hoop to pad your stitching.
- 3 FOLD** over the excess fabric around the edges of the hoop onto the back, then use a glue gun or double-sided tape to hold it in place.
- 4 NEATEN** the back of your hoop using another circle of felt, which you can either glue to the hoop, or sew to the fabric, using small, neat stitches.

Tip... Simple sparkle

To make your metallic stitching go smoothly, work your stitches slowly, using short lengths of thread.

CROSS STITCH Collection © Zweigart



Stitch this
into a wardrobe
hanger with pot
pourri inside

Oh Christmas Tree

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	224	893	813	lt shell pink
	301	1049	2306	mahogany
	310	403	black	black
	321	019	510	xmas red
	351	010	214	coral
	471	265	1501	lt avocado
	666	046	210	bright red
	732	281	1612	olive green
	745	300	111	v pale yellow
	b5200	001	white	bright white
	E3852	light effects gold		

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Backstitch in one strand

	321	019	510	xmas red
hanger detail				
	732	281	1612	olive green
hanger detail				

French knots in one strand

	666	046	210	bright red
decoration				

Stitched using DMC threads on 18 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 112hx89w

Design size: 16x12.5cm (6½x5in)

Stitch time: 6hrs



You will need...

28 count evenweave white, 15x12.5cm (6x5in)

Backing fabric 15x12.5cm (6x5in)

Ribbon 10mm (3/8in) x 7.5cm (3in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Split ring

Toy stuffing

Stitching the design

COMPLETE all the cross stitch using two strands of stranded cotton before adding the backstitch in one.

Birdcage keyring

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

xx	320	215	1311	dk green
★★	646	858	181	med grey
~~	648	900	1814	beaver grey
★★	902	022	601	dk garnet
○○	963	023	608	v lt dusty rose
##	3350	059	603	dk dusky rose
ss	3733	075	813	dusky rose
►►	3799	236	1713	dk pewter grey

Backstitch in one strand

—	902	022	601	dk garnet
				bird's legs
—	3799	236	1713	dk pewter grey
				cage details

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads.

Stitch Count: 45hx34w

Design size: 8.5x6.5cm (3 1/4x2 1/2in)

Stitch time: 2.5hrs

Birdcage keyring

The cutest keyring is just a few stitches away with our birdcage project. Top with a vintage-style ribbon loop to finish!

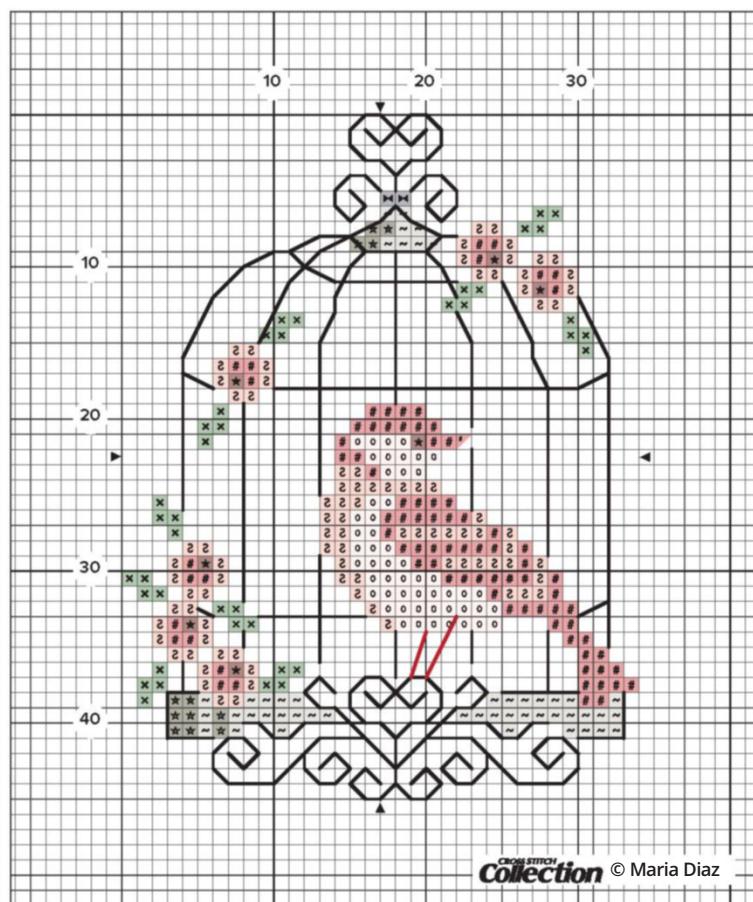
Make a keyring

1 PLACE the stitched front and the back right sides together. Fold the ribbon in half and slip the loop between the two layers at the top of the birdcage.

2 STITCH together all the way around, a short distance away from the birdcage edge, leaving a small gap along one side for turning.

3 TURN the birdcage right sides out and slip stitch the gap closed. Thread the split ring through the ribbon to complete. If you prefer, you could attach a lobster clasp instead to turn your keyring into a chic bag charm.

Add pot pourri to make your finished project into a freshener for your clothes.





This page images © Bothy Threads

Tidings of joy

Judy Darley finds out how six top needlework companies come up with their releases for the festive season.

As days shorten and temperatures drop, our thoughts turn to the Christmas designs we can get to work on, stitching gifts and anything festive we can lay our hands on. We chat to the companies who create the kits and charts we love, to discover the designs they're excited about for this twinkly time of year.

Bothy Threads

For Kate Golby, the founder of Bothy Threads (www.bothythreads.com),

Christmas is an increasingly important part of her calendar.

"We decided to really embrace the festive spirit and I asked several fabulous artists to come up with designs," she says. "It's so odd working on Christmas kits during the summer, but that's what's been happening in the Bothy."

There are some wonderfully colourful designs to look out for, including Christmas Fun from Julia Rigby and Christmas Mouse from Susan Wheeler.

"My favourite has to be Hannah Dale's joyful Jolly Robin", Kate says.

Bothy Threads have also released their first ever Christmas cards: "We've launched six super designs."

Kate relishes the opportunity to "use bright colours, sparkle threads and sequins", despite the challenges these present. "Although these look fabulous stitched up, it's hard to get photographs to do them justice," she says. "We play around on Photoshop and make sparkly star sequins to import. It's quite tricky!"





Above: John Clayton's Christmas Inn for Heritage Crafts.

Below: 3D Christmas cards from the Nutmeg Company.

For Christmas this year, Kate is looking forward to switching off and relaxing with the family.

Permin

The team at Scandinavian company Permin (www.permin.dk) completed their Christmas collection in May.



"We already know that our new monochrome series, consisting of a Christmas tree carpet, tablecloth, table-runner, cushion and advent calendar, will be bestsellers, says Martin Kaaber, the needlecraft company's export sales manager.

"We're making more designs on 'linen-aida', a woven aida fabric containing a third linen for a rustic look, but with aida squares to make it easier to stitch onto."

He says that hardanger decorations have been popular seasonal designs in recent years, along with a range of festive wine bottle aprons. "One of my favourite designs is the Santa Claus Singing advent calendar. It has all the elements of a classic Permin Christmas design."

Permin sources inspiration "from home décor exhibitions and gift

"Hygge is about when the light is low and the candles are lit"

you might be talking, playing a game, listening to music or just sipping a hot drink. That sums up my favourite things about Christmas."

Zweigart

Previously, popular festive designs at Zweigart (www.zweigart.com) have been based around images of the Christmas tree, says the company's Simone Ehle "worked



Tree hangers and cute winter deer by Permin.



fairs", as well as increasingly from trends spotted online.

Martin is keen to introduce us to a very special Danish word. "Hygge is about when the light is low, the candles are lit and you're sitting together with family indoors while a blizzard is going on outside -

Behind the scenes

out with different decorative themes, for example, an advent calendar with numbered gifts, a contemporary tree in red and white or a traditional one in Christmas green with ornaments."

Trends always influence the new Christmas offerings. "We're inspired by new themes and colour combinations that are shown in leading magazines or on style blogs," Simone says. "As well as traditional Christmas reds and greens, we've seen beige or frosty blue. In most designs we do stick with the traditional seasonal colours, which look best matched with festive Christmas designs."

Simone has her own personal favourite motif. "I think the Christmas tree from Zweigart design book 285 uses one the most important symbols connected with Christmas – modern but still classic! The tree symbolises the place where the whole family meets and celebrates the most festive day of the year".

She adds: "Christmas season is a beautiful time of festive moods, especially at the world famous German Christmas markets. It's a season to take time for yourself and to give your family and friends a great treat."

The Nutmeg Company

Meg Evershed, founder of The Nutmeg Company, (www.3dcrossstitch.co.uk) tells us that their festive offerings began with a range of Christmas trees and is expanding every year. "This year we've added a new design topped with snow," she says. "Everyone loves it when the tree goes up! Christmas cards are also popular and we try to add two new designs every year." Meg has a special trick for getting in the mood

"Christmas season is a beautiful time of festive moods"

Christmas Kittens
by Peter Underhill
for Heritage Crafts.



for producing new Christmas designs out of season. "It's much easier to produce snowy designs if you're reading Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol!" she says.

"This year, I'm excited about a traditional Gingerbread House and a Christmas scene showing a fireplace with stockings. They make me feel so Christmassy."

She comments that it often feels like they're racing time getting the kits ready so they can be stitched by customers in time for Christmas. "Once we're happy with the piece, it's

photographed and charted. We use DMC threads and mainly Zweigart fabrics and find the range of colours wonderful, but it can take a while to track down the beads and trims."

Meg's favourite bits of Christmas include "being with family and friends. I'm always aware of the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ. It's important to me to celebrate that and not forget it in the usual eating and present-giving."

Heritage Crafts

At Heritage Crafts (www.hcrafts.com), Christmas kits have been



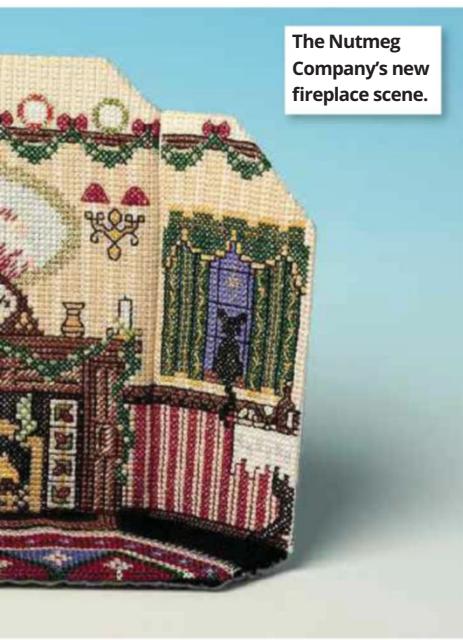
selling since midsummer, with numbers escalating all the time. "People like to buy kits as stocking fillers, so we expect them to continue selling across the board with an increase in smaller kits and those suitable for children," says founder Susan Ryder.

Popular festive kits always include John Clayton's Christmas designs, and Valerie Pfeiffer's bestselling Christmas Chick.

Choosing the designs to launch is helped by customer feedback. "We like to give people what they want! This Christmas we're bringing



The Nutmeg Company's new fireplace scene.



out a new design from John Clayton – Christmas Inn. We know Peter Underhill's cats will be popular. There's always demand for new greetings cards too."

Susan's personal favourite is Christmas Kittens by Peter Underhill. "The kittens are so endearing and look gorgeous in their Christmas hats. I enjoyed converting this design into cross stitch, blending threads together to get the lovely colours."

Sourcing design inspiration isn't a problem, as ideas flood in all the time, "from staff, customers, and, of course, from our wonderful



Left: Christmas Chick by Valerie Pfeiffer for Heritage Crafts.

"I love being with family, opening presents and enjoying a lovely roast dinner, surrounded by the colour and sparkle"

designers. This year we have so many ideas that it's a case of sorting out the ones we can do in time!"

Sheena Rogers

Designer Sheena Rogers (www.sheenarogersdesigns.co.uk) says: "Any designs featuring the colours we associate with Christmas, such as rich reds, emerald greens and sparkly golds, will always be favourites with stitchers."

Sheena's Christmas Robin hanging decoration remains a bestselling festive design. "It has always been popular," she says.

Sheena lets "ideas bubble around" in her head when coming up with new designs – sometimes ideas can swirl around for a few years. "A couple of years ago I produced a little gingerbread man decoration as a free gift for customers and this

year I've created a whole festive gingerbread scene." The new mini cushion, with matching tree decorations, features "a cute little gingerbread boy and girl, with gingerbread houses, surrounded by dolly mixtures and jelly beans."

One of her favourite steps is setting up photographs for kit covers. "For my gingerbread designs I surrounded the stitched pieces with actual sweets, which I couldn't let go to waste after!"

Sheena also particularly looks forward to designing each year's Christmas kits. "I enjoy creating designs around the traditional things we associate with it," she says. "I love being with family, opening presents and enjoying a lovely roast dinner, surrounded by the colour and sparkle from my own stitched decorations that adorn my home."



Meet the designer...

Jenny Barton

My main inspiration for my Christmas Eve design was our beautiful log burner and fireplace. Our lounge has an instant festive feel to it when the log burner is in use. At Christmas time, I love having a decorated fireplace rather than it being surrounded by the kids' toys! My favourite Christmas book as a child was *The Night Before Christmas*. I now read the same book to my children every Christmas and so I thought I'd create my own modern version of one of the pictures from the book. For my final 'homely' touch, I decided to add a cute sleeping pet in front of the fireplace. We actually have pet parrots, a gerbil and stick insects so I felt that a sleeping pet dog would be a tad more suitable and traditional!

Cosy Christmas

Snuggle up by the fire with our warm Christmas scene designed

by Jenny Barton



The stockings are hung, the candles are lit, the fire is roaring, the tree is laden with decorations, the presents are beautifully wrapped. Somewhere just out the picture, we suspect someone is putting their feet up with a mince pie and breathing a sigh of relief that they are finally ready for a perfect Christmas Day! As you'd expect from Jenny Barton, our cosy fireplace scene is full of beautiful details, from the snacks for Santa to the festive teddy bear, not forgetting the man himself speeding through the sky outside on his sleigh. ➤

*Capture the anticipation
of a perfect Christmas Day*





80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150





Stitch the
hearth section as
a Christmas card
for a dog lover.

Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel mushroom,
ref: 3281/309, 38x46cm (15x18in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

DMC metallic thread as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 23x29cm (9x11½in aperture)

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton or DMC metallic for the cross stitch.

Adding the detail

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch using one strand of stranded cotton for the main areas of the design, and two strands of the gold metallic for the tinsel on the Christmas tree.

Tip... Washing your design

To wash your stitching, fill a bowl with warm water and non-bio washing powder and rub small marks gently. Rinse well, then squeeze in a towel and iron dry.

Cosy Christmas

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

% %	159	120	901	lt cornflower blue
~ ~	160	175	907	med grey blue
D D	307	289	104	lemon
■ ■	310	403	black	black
Λ Λ	318	399	1802	lt steel grey
× ×	415	398	1803	pearl grey
2 2	436	1045	2011	lt brown
\$ \$	444	297	106	lemon
♥ ♥	498	1005	511	dk xmas red
# #	553	098	712	violet
@ @	554	097	711	lt violet
● ●	666	046	210	bright red
Ξ Ξ	738	361	2013	lt tan
8 8	739	366	2014	v lt tan
0 0	762	234	1804	v lt pearl grey
✗ ✗	3345	268	1406	hunter green
▲ ▲	3347	266	1408	yellow green
₭ ₭	3348	264	1409	lt yellow green
≤ ≤	3706	033	309	med melon
◆ ◆	3781	1050	2106	dk mocha
► ►	3842	162	1011	dk wedgwood
& &	3853	1003	311	autumn gold
Z Z	3854	313	2301	med autumn gold
□ □	ecru	387	ecru	ecru
· ·	blanc	001	white	white
■ ■	E815	light effects red		
★ ★	E3821	light effects gold		

Backstitch in one strand

—	3371	382	2004	dark brown outlines
---	------	-----	------	---------------------

—	E3821	light effects gold tree decoration
---	-------	------------------------------------

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 100hx145w

Design size: 19x26cm (7½x10¼in)

Stitch time: 75hrs



FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

Your bonus chart

Sweet cupcake

Use our gorgeous bonus chart and free downloadable paper to make a card that's almost sweet enough to eat

You will need...

28 count evenweave white, 10x10cm (4x4in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Downloadable card

Doily 10cm (4in) diameter

See page 58 for stockists

Stitching the design

STITCH your cupcake using two strands for the cross stitch, one strand for the backstitch and two strands for the French knots.

Make a card

1 **DOWNLOAD** the patterned card from www.willowfabrics.com and print onto thin card.

If your printer struggles with card, print onto paper and glue onto thin card. Cut out and fold in half.

2 **CUT** your stitching to the same size as the inner circle on your doily. You can use fray check to stop the fabric fraying, if you wish.

3 **ATTACH** your stitching to the centre of the doily with double-sided tape, then attach the doily to the centre of your folded card.

Send this
sugary card in
the post to invite
a friend for tea.

Sweet cupcake

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

~ ~	543	933	1909	lt beige brown
♡ ♡	818	073	502	baby pink
★ ★	961	076	610	dusty rose
☰ ☰	3716	025	606	v lt dusky rose
— —	3862	358	1913	dk mocha beige
★ ★	3864	376	1910	lt sepia

Backstitch in one strand

—	938	381	2005	dk coffee
all details				

French knots in two strands

○ ○	818	073	502	baby pink
iced gems				
● ●	961	076	610	dusty rose
iced gems				
● ●	3716	025	606	v lt dusky rose
iced gems				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads.

Design area: 4.5x4.5cm (1¾x1¾in)

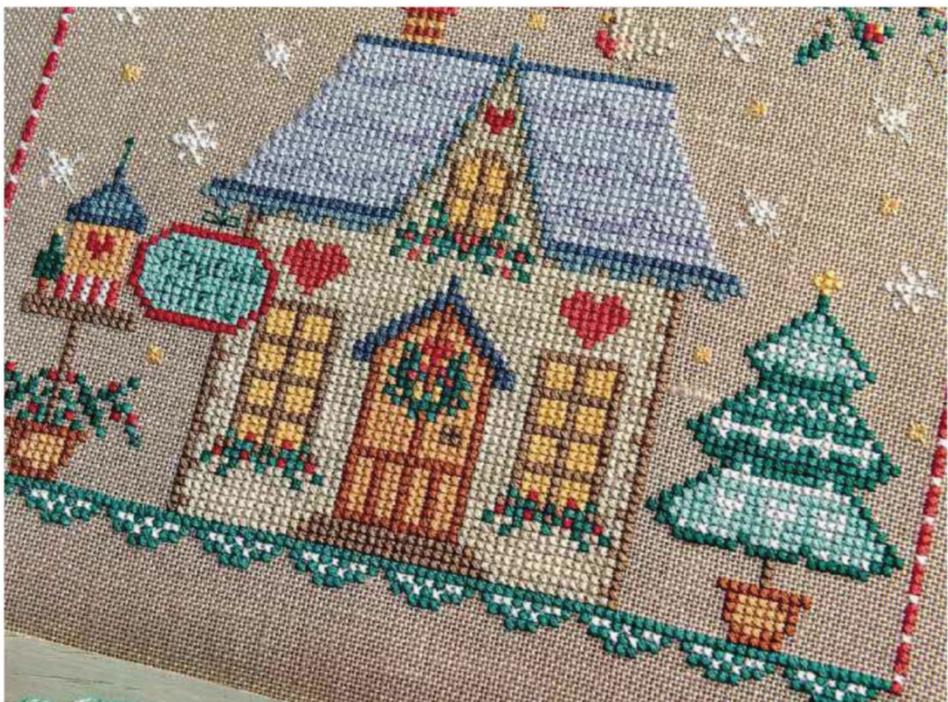
Stitching time: 2.5hrs



© Maria Diaz
Collection

Warm welcome

Stitch our rustic picture designed by **Gail Bussi** to welcome visitors into your home this Christmas



Our sweet house designed by Gail Bussi would look lovely in the front hall to welcome visitors, or it would make an ideal gift for someone spending their first Christmas in a new home. If you'd like to make this picture as a house warming present that can be left up all year around, you could stitch the house without the Joyeux Noel sign, stars, or trees. You could also add a few springy shades to the flowers in the window boxes and border. >



Our little festive
house is full of charming
Christmas details

**FIND
MORE
FREE
MAGAZINES**

HTTP://SOEK.IN



Use the pretty
scalloped border
in other projects

Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel mushroom,
ref: 3281/309, 33x38cm (13x15in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 19x21cm (7½x8¼in aperture)

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch.

Adding the detail

COMPLETE all the cross stitch before adding the backstitch and French knots using one strand of stranded cotton in the colours listed in the key.

Warm welcome

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	318	399	1802	lt steel grey
	347	1025	407	v dk red
	415	398	1803	pearl grey
	434	310	2009	lt brown
	437	362	2012	lt tan
	561	212	1205	dk jade
	642	392	1906	dk beige grey
	644	830	1907	beige grey
	676	891	2208	med yellow
	677	886	2207	lt yellow
	822	390	2001	dk ecru
	926	850	1707	m grey green
	951	1010	2308	lt tawny
	3328	1024	406	dk salmon
	3768	779	1712	dk grey green
	3790	404	1905	dk sepia
	3815	877	1205	dk celadon green
	3817	875	1111	lt celadon green
	3865	002	2402	winter white

Backstitch in one strand

	561	212	1205	dk jade
words				
	676	891	2208	med yellow
stars				
	3790	404	1905	dk sepia
branches, bird legs				
	3865	002	2402	winter white
snowflakes				

French knots in one strand

	561	212	1205	dk jade
i dot, detail				
	3790	404	1905	dk sepia
eye				

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

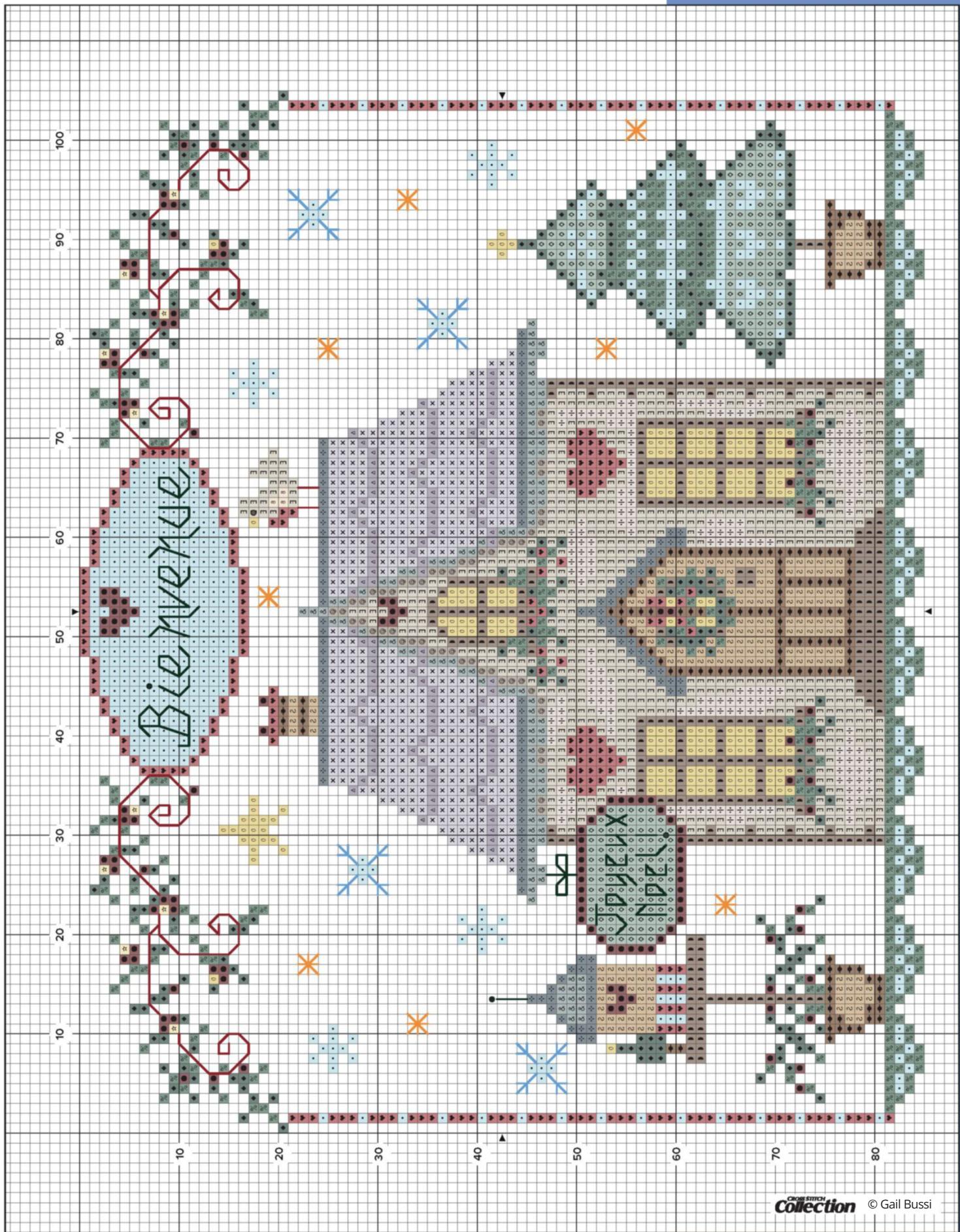
Stitch count: 85hx105w

Design size: 15x19cm (6x7½in)

Stitch time: 29hrs

Tip... Make Christmas cards

Make Christmas cards using the tree or birdhouse designs, with a few stars and snowflakes in the background.

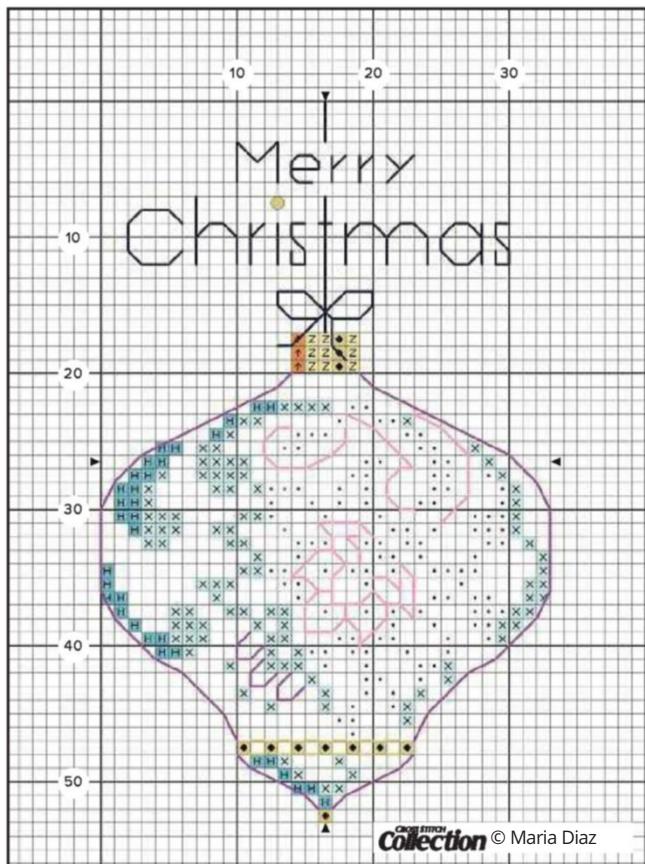


Change the colour fabric you stitch on to go with your other tree decorations



Beautiful baubles

Our versatile lace-look decorations designed by **Maria Diaz** can be used to make cards, pictures or tree decorations



Our fun festive designs by Maria Diaz combine the traditional Christmas staples of lace and baubles to make something that feels fresh. In the next few pages we show you how to turn these gorgeous designs into Christmas cards or fun baubles for the tree.

Make our fun designs as cards or decorations

If you are spending Christmas in a self-catering cottage this year, you could pop some stitched baubles in your suitcase. Once there, bring in a pretty branch from outdoors and adorn with your baubles for an instant Christmas tree.





Are you
stitching this?

Share your pics and
stitching stories at
[www.facebook.com/
CSCMagazine](http://www.facebook.com/CSCMagazine)



Collection makes...

JAR TOPPERS If you like to give homemade chutney at Christmas, you could stitch a bauble to make a festive topper. Just cut out with pinking shears and tie on with festive ribbon.

FESTIVE DRINKS
Frame your finished round baubles in acrylic coasters and give as Christmas gifts.

COSY CUSHION
Stitch a row of baubles on a pillow cover with an aida panel for an easy Christmas addition to your sofa.



Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel grey ref: 3281/778, 28x21.5cm (11x8½in) picture; 14x14cm (5½x5½in) card; 10x10cm (4x4in) each bauble

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

DMC light effects as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 16.5x11.5cm (6½x4½in) aperture; white card with a 9.5cm (3¾in) circular aperture

Iron-on Vilene 10x10cm (4x4in) for each bauble

Fray check

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

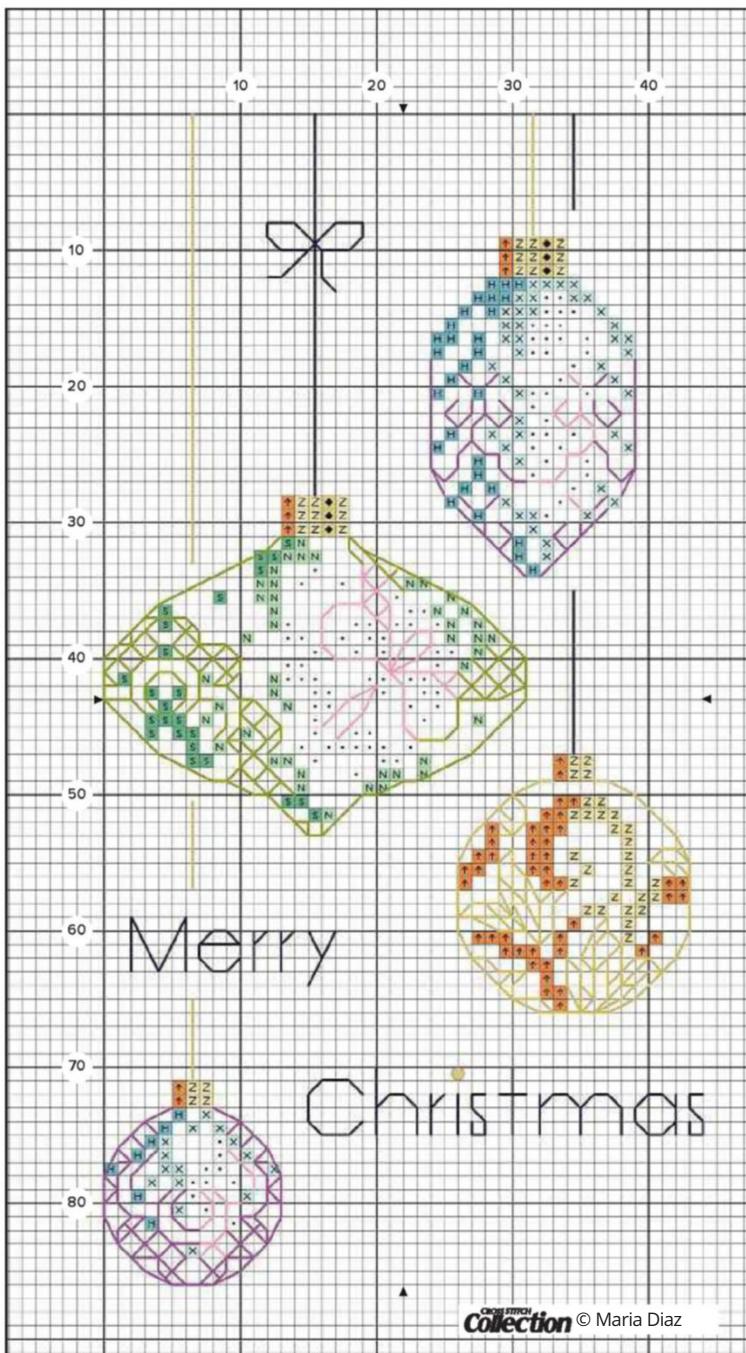
FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching here. Use two strands of stranded cotton for the cross stitch, two strand for the backstitch and two for the French knots.

Make up your card

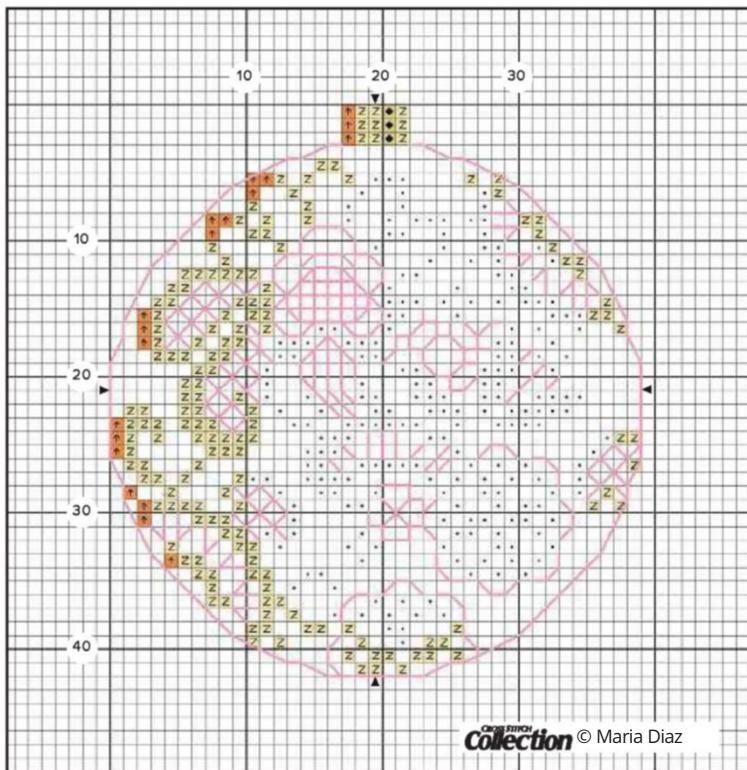
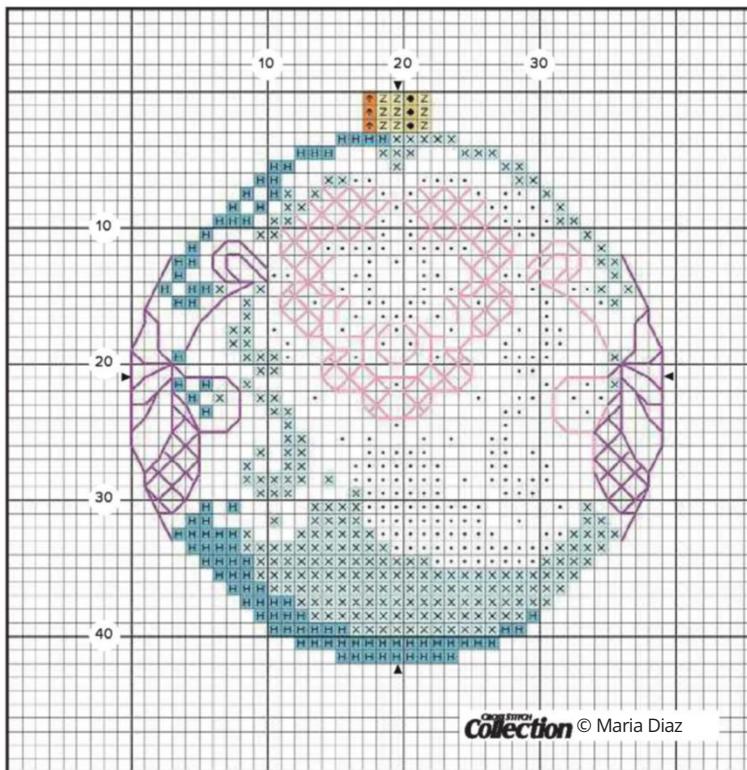
1 TRIM the stitched fabric to fit your card, with the design centrally placed behind the card's aperture. Attach double-sided tape to the inside of the card around the edge of the aperture.

2 PLACE the stitching on the table right-side up, and then place the card on top, pressing down firmly on the tape.

3 CHECK which flap will fold onto the back of the stitching, then add strips of double-sided tape and press firmly down to secure.



© Maria Diaz



Add beads to your stitching for extra sparkle.

Make up your baubles

1 **PLACE** the back of your stitched bauble against the shiny side of the Vilene. Using an iron, fix the layers together. Cut the stitching into a bauble shape, leaving three blank squares of fabric around the stitching.

2 **USE** Fray check to seal the edges of the bauble, and then make a hole in the top and thread with a length of stranded cotton for hanging.

Beautiful baubles

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

↑↑	676	891	2208	med yellow
ZZ	677	886	2207	lt yellow
XX	747	158	1104	lt sky blue
SS	913	204	1212	nile green
NN	955	206	1210	lt nile green
HH	3761	928	1014	lt sky blue
••	blanc	001	white	white
◆◆	E3821			light effects gold

Backstitch in two strands

—	336	150	1007	navy blue
hanging ribbon, words				
—	747	158	1104	lt sky blue
outlines and details				
—	955	206	1210	nile green
outlines and details				
—	blanc	001	white	white
outlines and details				
—	E3821			light effects gold
outlines and details				

French knots in two strands

●●	E3821	light effects gold
i dots		

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 86hx43w picture; card 53hx33w card; 42hx39w each bauble

Design size: 15x8cm (6x3½in) picture; 9.5x6cm (3¾x2½in); 7.5x7cm (2¾in x 2¾in)

Stitch time: 5hrs picture; 3hrs card; 3hrs each bauble



“You could pop a stitched bauble into your Christmas cards as a small gift for close friends and family”

Beautiful baubles

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

↑↑	676	891	2208	med yellow
ZZ	677	886	2207	lt yellow
XX	747	158	1104	lt sky blue
SS	913	204	1212	nile green
NN	955	206	1210	lt nile green
HH	3761	928	1014	lt sky blue
••	blanc	001	white	white
◆◆	E3821			light effects gold

Backstitch in two strands

—	336	150	1007	navy blue
hanging ribbon, words				
—	747	158	1104	lt sky blue
outlines and details				
—	955	206	1210	nile green
outlines and details				
—	blanc	001	white	white
outlines and details				
—	E3821			light effects gold
outlines and details				

French knots in two strands

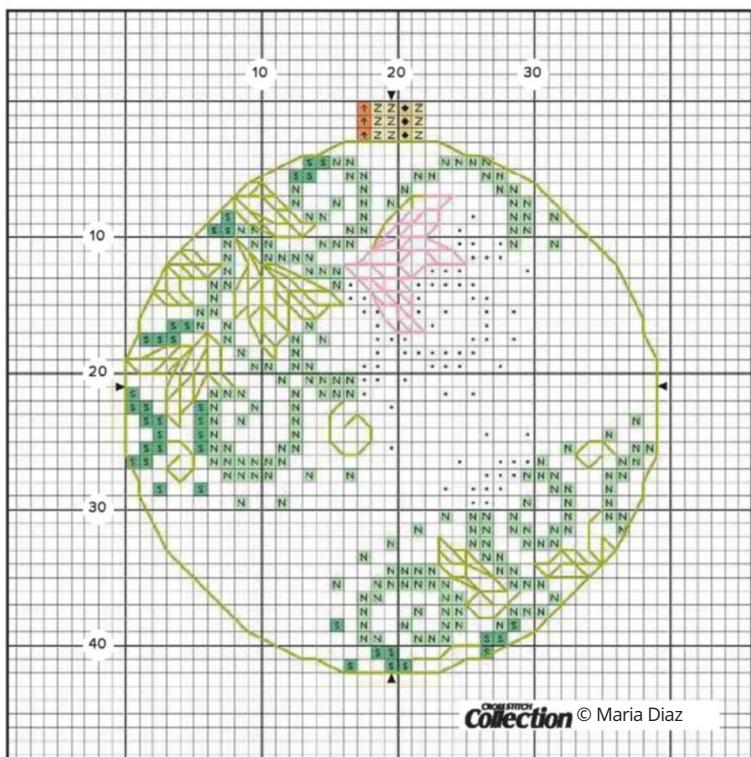
●●	E3821	light effects gold
i dots		

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 86hx43w picture; card 53hx33w card; 42hx39w each bauble

Design size: 15x8cm (6x3½in) picture; 9.5x6cm (3¾x2¾in); 7.5x7cm (2¾inx2¾in)

Stitch time: 5hrs picture; 3hrs card; 3hrs each bauble



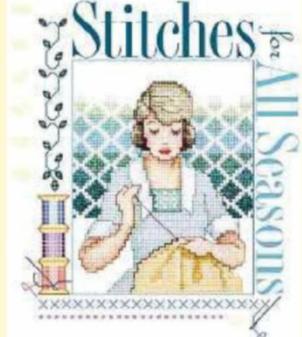


Why the Apple Car is the kick the industry needs

TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS SCIENCE LIFE & CULTURE THE FUTURE

alphr
.com

A fresh take on technology



Stitches for All Seasons
Original, counted cross-stitch designs

Creative stitching ideas for
 • HOLIDAYS • THE HOME • GIFTS
 • FAMILY • and more!

Charts and projects for all seasons and occasions, available only online.

- easy-to-read charts and directions
- designs for all stitching levels



visit and order online at
stitchesforallseasons.com



Willow Fabrics

Your needlecraft fabric specialist for Zweigart Aida, Linen & Evenweave

www.willowfabrics.com



We Specialise in Material Packs & Charts for Mirabilia & Lavender & Lace:
 Ella the Frog Princess Materials £29.50+Chart £11.50
 Siren & The Shipwreck Materials £39.50+Chart £11.50



8 Metres of All 447 DMC plain colours in a Presentation Box £165+£14 Special Delivery & Insurance



DMC Stranded Cotton Threads, 8 Meters on large bobbins 45p Each + postage at cost



DMC Thread Variations All 36 Colours SPECIAL OFFER £18+£2 Postage



leisurecraft-tewkesbury.com - Tel: 01684 297586 - eMail: leisurecraft.tewkesbury@gmail.com

**CALL
0207 907 6662
TO ADVERTISE
HERE**

Shopping Collection

It's easy to find essential stitching supplies or catch up on a missed copy of *Cross Stitch Collection* with our handy shopping guide

Stockists

Seen something that's inspired you?
Here's where you can buy it...

ANN'S ORCHARD

www.annsorchard.co.uk

01342 311545

For contemporary and traditional bead and needlework kits, plus frames to display them in.

BARNYARNS

www.barnyarns.co.uk

0176 569 0069

For Anchor, DMC and Madeira threads and all kinds of haberdashery supplies.

COTTON PATCH

www.cottonpatch.co.uk

0121 702 2840

For fabrics, books, wadding, notions, and accessories and other haberdashery.

CRAFT LAMPS

www.craftlamps.co.uk

01373 454448

Stocking a fantastic array of craft lamps including desk, floor and magnifying lamps, including Daylight™ lamps.

CROSS STITCH GUILD

www.thecrossstitchguild.com

01285 713678

Online shop selling books, kits, supplies, tools and chart design software.

DKH CREATIONS

www.dkhcreations.co.uk

For cross stitch kits, threads, aida and accessories.

DP SOFTWARE

www.dpsoftware.com

01454 612598

Software for creating charts for cross stitch and tapestry from drawings or photos.

E-FRAME

www.eframe.co.uk

Bespoke and ready-made picture frames and mounts for displaying your stitching.

HERITAGE CRAFTS

www.hcrafts.com

01889 575 256

Cross stitch designs and kits from artists including John Clayton, Peter Underhill and Valerie Pfeiffer.

HOBBYCRAFT

www.hobbycraft.co.uk

0845 051 6599

For cardstock, paper, paint, glue and other general crafting supplies.

JOHN JAMES NEEDLES

www.jjneedles.com

0152 783 0941

All kinds of needles and needle packs for all your stitching requirements.

JOSY ROSE

www.josyrose.com

For buttons, sequins, beads, ribbons and all kinds of embellishments, plus adhesives, papers, scissors and more.

PERMIN

www.permin.dk/uk

Permin produces a wide range of needlework designs, kits, tools and supplies.

PHOTOS 2 STITCH

www.photos2stitch.co.uk

For personalised counted cross stitch kits and charts made from any photograph.

SEAMSTAR

www.seamstar.co.uk

0182 977 1529

For plain and patterned fabrics and all kinds of trims.

SEW AND SO

www.sewando.co.uk

For cross stitch threads, fabric, patterns and kits, as well as other needlecraft supplies. Stocks 14 count perforated paper.

STITCHER LIMITED

www.stitcher.co.uk

0161 464 7310

For cross stitch, tapestry, embroidery, longstitch, crochet, knitting and general crafting products.

WILLOW FABRICS

www.willowfabrics.co.uk

For evenweave, aida and all kinds of stitching fabrics, plus threads, accessories and towels with aida panels.



Download your digital issue of *Cross Stitch Collection*

You can buy a digital edition of *Cross Stitch Collection* – ready to read whenever you want. Single issues and subscriptions are available and every issue you purchase is stored in your magazine library permanently.

Once the magazine has downloaded, an internet connection is not required so you can take your magazine with you, wherever you go. You'll also find a huge range of back issues online too – go and have a browse to see what you've missed!

CONTACT US AT

Cross Stitch Collection,
PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY
Email: csc@dennis.co.uk

EDITORS Susan and Martin Penny
COMMISSIONING EDITOR Jenny Dixon
ART EDITOR Claire Gerrey
PRODUCTION EDITOR Annabel Andrews

Editorial Assistants Nicole Penny, Jenny Jobbins
Photography Tony Atkinson at Just Focus

ADVERTISING
Advertising Director Andrea Mason 0207 907 6662

MARKETING AND CIRCULATION

Subscriptions Manager Sarah Aldridge
Senior Direct Marketing Executive Rachel Evans
UK: subscription orders & enquiries 01795 592 966
Overseas: subscription orders & enquiries +44 (0) 1795 592 966
Order online: dennis.subscribeonline.co.uk
Email: crossstitchcollection@servicehelpline.co.uk

PRODUCTION

Group Production Manager Stephen Catherall

MANAGEMENT

Managing Director John Garewal
MD of Advertising Julian Lloyd-Evans
Newtrade Director David Barker
Group Managing Director Ian Westwood
Group CFO/COO Brett Reynolds
Chief Executive James Tye
Company Founder Felix Dennis

BRAND USAGE LICENSING AND REPRINTS

Cross Stitch Collection is available for reprint,
syndication & licensing.
Contact Nicole Adams at nicole_adams@dennis.co.uk
or +44 (0)20 7907 6134

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE

Friday 9 December 2016
Printed and bound by William Gibbons
Distributed by Seymour Distribution Ltd, 2 East Poultry Avenue,
London EC1A 9PT Call: 0207 429 4000

ONWARD RESALE This publication may not be resold or otherwise
distributed, whether at, below or above face value. Nor can this
publication be advertised for sale, transfer or distribution.

PERMISSIONS Material may not be reproduced in any form without
the written consent of the publisher. Please address such requests to
John Garewal, Dennis Publishing, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD

LIABILITY While every care was taken preparing this magazine, the
publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the
information or any consequence arising from it. All judgements are
based on equipment available to Cross Stitch Collection at the time of
review. Cross Stitch Collection takes no responsibility for the content of
external websites whose addresses are published in the magazine.

A DENNIS PUBLICATION Cross Stitch Collection is published every four
weeks by Dennis Publishing Ltd, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD.
Company registered in England. Material may not be reproduced in
whole or part without the consent of the publishers. ISSN 1461-6211

COMPETITION RULES By taking part in one of our Competitions, you agree to be
bound by these Competition Rules. Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified. Proof of
posting (if relevant) shall not be deemed proof of delivery. Entries must be submitted by an
individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per
household. The Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to substitute any prize with
cash or a prize of comparable value. Unless otherwise stated, the Competition is open to all GB
residents of 18 years and over, except employees of Dennis Publishing and any party involved
in the competition or their households. By entering a Competition you give permission to use
your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for
promotional purposes. All entries will become the property of the Company upon receipt and not
copied or adapted from any other source. If you are a winner, you may have to provide
additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months
of the closing date. If you are a winner, receipt by you of any prize is conditional upon you
complying with (among other things) the Competition Rules. You acknowledge and agree that
neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in
connection with your use and/or possession of your prize.

© Copyright Dennis Publishing Limited

EVERY
ISSUE features
easy-to-use
charts you can
zoom!

Go to Apple Newsstand
for iPad and iPhone
www.bit.ly/ApplesCSCollection

Go to Zinio for
Android or PC/Mac
www.zinio.com/crossstitchcollection

Don't
forget...

you can buy back
issues online at **dennis.**
subscribeonline.co.uk/back-issues



Collection 265

- Find the first half of our giant Venice street scene
- Save your place with our Art Deco bookmarks
- Stitch a stunning dolphin portrait designed by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Make a summery picture with our Kilner jar flowers
- Top your home-made jam with our sweet cover
- Share some bunny hugs with our adorable picture
- Stitch a wild rose sampler



Collection 266

- Stitch a sweet feast with our cupcake sampler
- Make alpine-inspired Christmas decorations
- Snuggle up with our autumn fox cub design by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Stitch harvest apples with atmospheric silhouettes
- Get ready for Strictly with our dazzling dance couple
- Finish your Venice street scene with the second half of Deb Lester's design



Collection 267

- Leap into Christmas with our magical flying reindeer
- Celebrate autumn with our woodland fairy and six seasonal pincushions
- Escape to the country with our Impressionist scenes
- Make a nostalgic paper doll picture
- Stitch a stunning festive sampler with the help of our giant fold out chart

Collection 268

- Capture the magic of a winter walk with our stunning cover project
- Make nativity decorations inspired by carols
- Stitch our cosy polar bear project designed by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- Make a stocking sampler
- Find the first half of our stunning Christmas Eve house design

NOTE TO READERS

The charts in this magazine are protected by copyright belonging to
Dennis Publishing or its designers and contributors.
Do not re-sell, reproduce or distribute the charts without permission from the copyright
owner. Copyright law protects creative work and unauthorised copying is illegal.
However making a single copy for the purposes of personal use is allowed.



Stitch basics

Discover all you need to know to start cross stitching and lots of helpful hints to make you an expert. **We will help you make those first stitches...**

Getting started

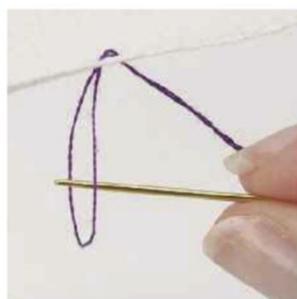
Select your needle

Fabric	Count	Needle
Aida	11-14	Tapestry 24
Aida	16-20	Tapestry 26
Hardanger	22	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	22-32	Tapestry 26
Evenweave	36 and over	Tapestry 28

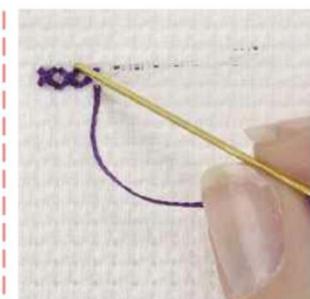
TIP To attach beads, use a beading needle or a size 28 tapestry needle.



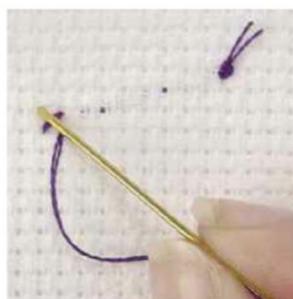
Try these three ways to get going, then choose the one that suits you best



Loop start When stitching with two threads
Cut a single thread that's twice as long as you need, and thread both ends through your needle. Come up through the fabric and make a half stitch, then pass the needle through the loop that's formed at the back to secure it.



Loose end start When stitching with any number of threads
Bring your needle up through the fabric, and be sure to leave a little piece of thread at the back. Hold this thread underneath the area to be stitched so that you will secure it with your first few cross stitches.



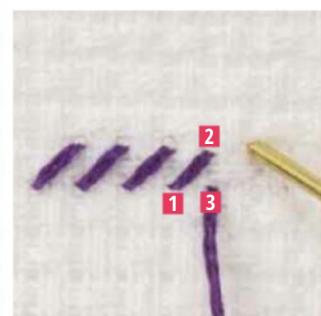
Waste knot start When stitching with any number of threads
Knot the end of the thread and take the needle down through the fabric on the right side, a little away from your first stitch. As you stitch towards the knot, you will secure the thread at the back, then you can cut off the knot.

Cross stitch made easy

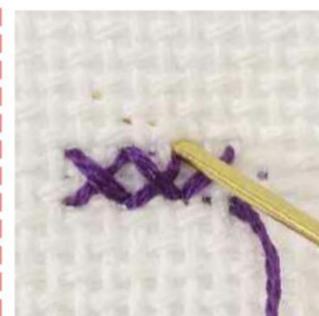
Learn the basic techniques and you're ready for the projects!



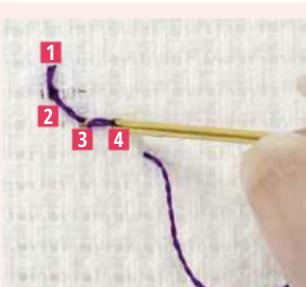
Cross stitch on aida
Aida has groups of threads woven together to form distinct blocks – perfect for beginners. Cross stitches are made over one block of fabric. A quick way to work a line of stitches is to use half cross stitches going one way, then double back on yourself.



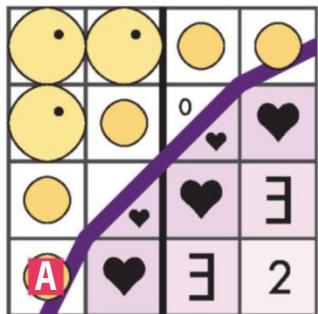
Half cross stitch
This is simply half of an ordinary cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3 and so on. Half cross stitches are often used to create a paler area of stitching, for example for the sky or a background, which can give the impression of distance in a design.



Cross stitch on evenweave
Evenweave and linen fabrics are woven in single threads. Usually you will stitch over two threads, as you can see in the example shown above. As a result of this, a design stitched on 28 count evenweave will be the same size as one stitched on 14 count aida.

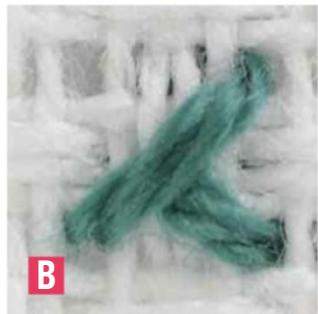


Backstitch, used for outlines or details, is shown as coloured lines on the chart and is done after the cross stitch. Bring the needle up at 1, down at 2, up at 3, down at 2, up at 4 and so on, working over one block of aida or two threads of evenweave. **Long stitch** is worked the same way, but over more than one block of aida or more than two threads of evenweave.



Fractional stitches

A small symbol in the corner of a square (A) indicates a three-quarter stitch (B). If two different symbols occupy the



same square, make the less prominent colour a tiny quarter stitch (C) then work a three-quarter stitch in the other colour (D). The examples



shown are on aida where the centre block has to be pierced to make the quarter stitch (you may want to use a sharper needle for this).



TIP Fractionals are easier to work on evenweave as there is no block to be pierced.

The final details

Many designs feature beads or French knots. These are easy to do, but practise on scrap fabric first



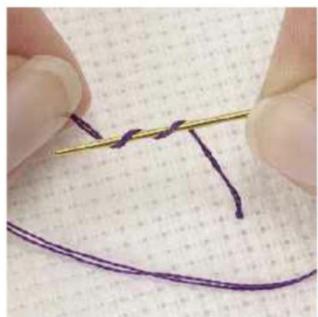
Beads

Attach each bead with a half cross stitch. Bring the needle up at one bottom corner of the square, thread the bead on to the needle and complete the stitch. Use a beading needle or a needle with a small eye, and sewing cotton that matches the fabric or stitching. Attach more firmly with a whole cross stitch.



French knots

1 Bring the needle up through the fabric. With thumb and forefinger, hold the thread a few inches away from where it came up. Keeping the thread taut, twist the needle twice around the thread.



2 Still holding the thread, push the needle down into the fabric close to where it came out, then pull the needle through gently to form a knot. Don't pull too hard. **TIP** Vary the number of twists or strands to make larger or smaller French knots.

When finished...

Taking care of your stitching

Wash your work to refresh the fabric and threads – good quality threads won't run. Use warm water and rinse until the water runs clear. To iron, place your damp stitching on fluffy towels, with a clean white cloth over the top, and press with a warm iron until it is almost dry.

Reading charts and keys

The charts are easy to follow when you know how

■ Each chart symbol represents one stitch on the fabric.

■ The key shows the thread colour that the symbols represent, for all stitches. Check how many strands of thread you need for each.

■ The thread codes in the key are for DMC, Anchor and Madeira colours. We list the threads used to stitch our model first (therefore the design may look slightly different if stitched using another brand).

■ The arrows on the chart point to the centre of the chart. On most designs, you start stitching here to ensure the design is central. To find the centre of your fabric, fold it in half both ways; the crease in the middle corresponds to the chart centre where you'll make your first stitch.

Daisy key

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

0 0	white	002	2402	white
3 3	210	108	0802	light purple
5 5	550	101	0714	dark purple
5 5	553	098	0712	med purple
3 3	3866	926	2001	off white

Half cross stitch in two strands

5 5	550	101	0714	dark purple
-----	-----	-----	------	-------------

Cross stitch in one strand of each colour

2 2	211	342	0801	lilac
			DMC Light Effects E5200	

Backstitch in one strand

5 5	550	101	0714	dark purple
	all outlines and details			

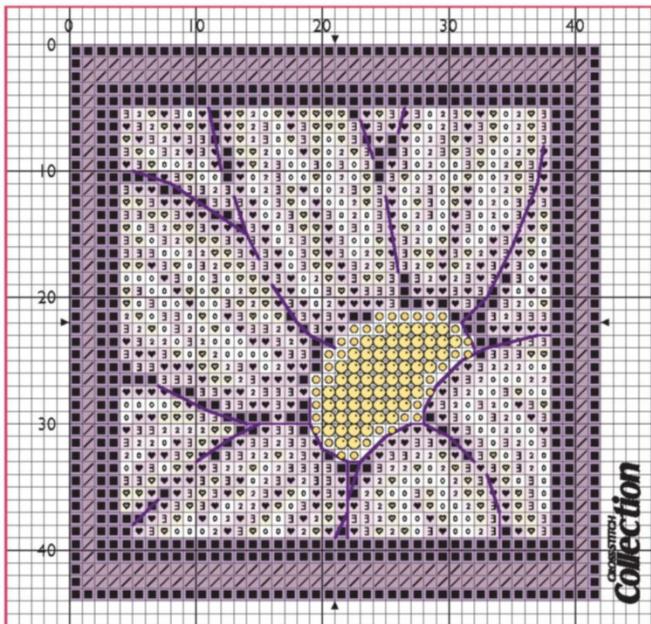
French knots in two strands

7 7	743	305	0113	yellow
	daisy centre details			

Mill Hill seed beads

0 0	02002	yellow	creme
	daisy centre details		

Stitched using DMC threads on 14 count aida
Stitch count: 44x42
Design area: 8x8cm (3½x3in)



Break time!

Relax and take a break with this month's prize crossword for a chance to win a quilting book

Across

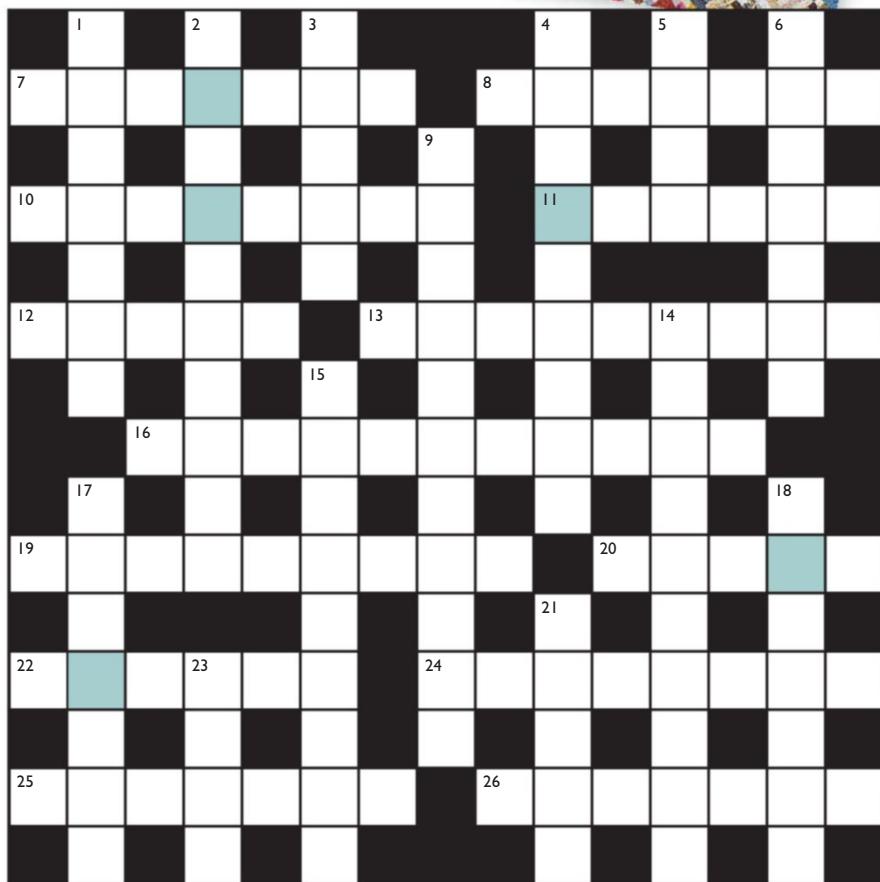
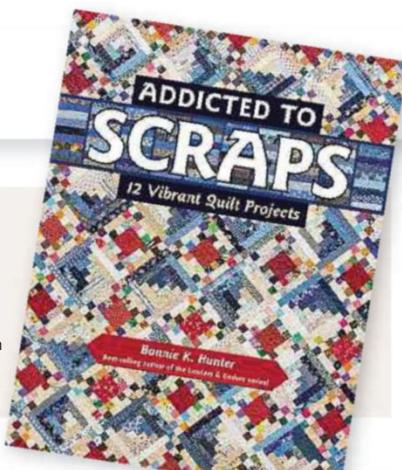
- 7 Someone who does things or goes places no one has before (7)
- 8 Opportunities (7)
- 10 Resist or battle (8)
- 11 Recipe for this on page 30 (6)
- 12 Relaxes or takes a break (5)
- 13 Opposite of excluding (9)
- 16 Noticeable or recognisable (11)
- 19 Through your own choice or acceptance (9)
- 20 Permit (5)
- 22 Varying length element of a poem (6)
- 24 Buying things (8)
- 25 Constructed by human hand (7)
- 26 100 of these in a pound sterling (7)

Down

- 1 20th century decade style on page 8 (7)
- 2 Style of a factory or machinery (10)
- 3 Period of rule of a monarch (5)
- 4 Confection made from cocoa beans (9)
- 5 Opposite of 'out of' (4)
- 6 Areas or zones (7)
- 9 Without sense or connotation (11)
- 14 Growing or producing (10)
- 15 Qualities by which things are measured (9)
- 17 Make this on page 16 (4,3)
- 18 On horseback (7)
- 21 Make this for a book on page 14 (5)
- 23 Word which we are known by (4)

Your prize

One lucky winner will receive this lovely book by Bonnie K. Hunter called *Addicted to Scraps* (£19.99). Turn leftover strips into usable fabric that's readily available for projects with the easy-to-use Scrap User's System. This complete guide to scrap quilting includes full-size templates, two paper-piecing patterns, and a full chapter on quiltmaking basics, plus 12 sensational multicoloured scrap quilts. *Addicted to Scraps* is available from www.searchpress.com.



Prize crossword 268

Across: 1 backstitch; 6 atom; 10 diamond; 11 snowmen; 12 eggs; 13 rails; 14 plot; 17 Oscar; 18 holder; 20bottle; 22 cover; 27 oxen; 28 muddy; 29 bear; 32 between; 33 endless; 34 deep; 35 protractor

Down: 1 budget; 2 changes; 3 snow; 4 Indian; 5 castle;
7 tumbled; 8 monsters; 9 lot; 15 table; 16 motor;
19 absorbed; 21 theatre; 23 element; 24 runner; 25 advent;
26 eraser; 30 bed; 31 idea

Winning word: SAMPLER

How to enter

Once you've completed the crossword, the shaded boxes will form a word we use to describe stitching fabrics. Write your winning word and Crossword 269 on the back of a postcard or stuck-down envelope, adding your name and address, and post it to: Cross Stitch Collection Magazine, PO Box 172, Northam, EX39 9DY. Competition open 11 November - 8 December 2016. For competition terms and conditions go to page 59.

Competition rules To enter this competition, entries must be received between 11 November – 8 December 2016. The winners will be selected at random from all entries. Entries must be submitted by an individual (not via any agency or similar) and, unless otherwise stated, are limited to one per household. By entering a Competition you give permission to use your name, likeness and personal information in connection with the Competition and for promotional purposes. You warrant that the Competition entry is entirely your own work and not copied or adapted. If you are a winner, you may have to provide additional information. Details of winners will be available on request within three months of the closing date. You acknowledge and agree that neither the Company nor any associated third parties shall have any liability to you in connection with your use and/or possession of your prize. Further rules can be read in full on page 59.

Next month in your January issue...



Lovely stitches

Stitching you can't miss...

- * Enjoy our **cocker spaniel** designed by Jayne Netley Mayhew
- * Stitch a wall of gorgeous framed flowers by **Amanda Gregory**
- * Make a collection of **quick cards** and tags designed by Durene Jones

PLUS Gift bags, tropical fish bathroom set, winter landscape and more!

FREE!
GIANT FOLD OUT BABY
LOVE CHART – STITCH
A TREE FESTOONED
WITH TREATS FOR
A BABY GIRL

ON SALE Friday 9th December

Christmas cut through house

Get ready for Christmas Eve with the second half of our biggest ever giant chart designed by **Deb Lester**

The second half of our beautiful Christmas Eve design is full of wonderful details that we think you'll really enjoy working on. There's lots of snow in this section of the chart. Deb has brought the snow to life by mixing pearl thread into some of the stitches for a dappled glow. The stunning large tree, festooned with lights, is a real show-stopping piece of stitching. We can imagine this stitched as a picture in its own right – it would look lovely in a tall and skinny silver frame. Stitching a large design like this takes a lot of stamina, so try to take regular breaks from your stitching and maybe do some hand exercises to stop your fingers becoming stiff and achy. Set yourself sensible goals to keep your momentum going!



Make it yours

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel blue spruce,
ref: 3281/578, 65.5x70.5cm (26x28in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Blending filament as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 41.5x47cm (16½x18½in) aperture

For stockist details see page 58

Before you begin

THIS design has the largest stitching design area of any of our giant charts so far, so we have published it over two issues. The first part was published in November's issue 268. The measurements, stitch count, design size and time are for the complete design. Stranded cotton is used for both the cross stitch and backstitch, with the addition of blending filament. Start working in the centre of the complete design, or you can complete the left hand side before moving on to the right. This design does contain many different elements including fractionals, and vertical and horizontal half stitches on Santa, the reindeer's reins, window panes, small houses, street light, and the edge of the main roof. This, coupled with lots of colour changes, and the large areas ➤

Part
Two





Stitch a small section like this snowman to make Christmas cards.

of snow, worked as a blend with pearl coloured blending filament, makes this a really challenging design! There are seven backstitch colours, which are used to outline nearly every area of the design. This design is best worked on evenweave because of the fractionals, and in a dark colour to allow the sparkly snow to show up!

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton, with some areas worked using two of stranded and one of blending filament, and others with two strands of stranded and two of blending filament. The backstitch is in one and two strands of stranded cotton.

All in the detail

USE a frame when working this design, as a hoop may distort the stitches. Choose a sharp needle for the backstitch to help you place the stitches correctly.

TREE AND MOONLIGHT

The branches on the main tree are backstitched in two strands of dark blue stranded cotton, with two

strands of dark brown used for the tree lights. Some of the tree lights are stitched using pearl blending filament and some without, please refer to the key for placement. The moon behind the tree has no backstitch, but some of the rings of light are mixed with pearl blending filament to give a subtle glow. The cat sitting up the tree is backstitched in one strand of off-white.

SMALL HOUSE, SNOW AND GARDEN

Most of the backstitch detail is done in one strand of dark brown, apart from the stop sign and window panes which are in one strand of off-white. Large areas of snow around the main tree, small house roofs, and the Christmas tree on the right hand side of the design, are all worked with a mix of stranded cotton and blending filament. Please refer to the chart for placement, because these areas also have stitches in just stranded to give the wonderful moonlight effect. Vertical half stitches are used to finish the edges of the small houses and the street light in the background.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Most areas inside the house are outlined in one strand of dark brown stranded cotton. The only brightly coloured backstitch in this design is used in the sitting room where the lights are on, with one strand of light blue for the balloon strings, two strands of red for the tree garland, and two strands of green for the Christmas tree branches. On Santa's boots, horizontal and vertical half stitches are used at the edges. In the bedroom, one strand of off-white is used for the light cable hanging from the ceiling in the right hand bedroom.

ROOF AND REINDEER

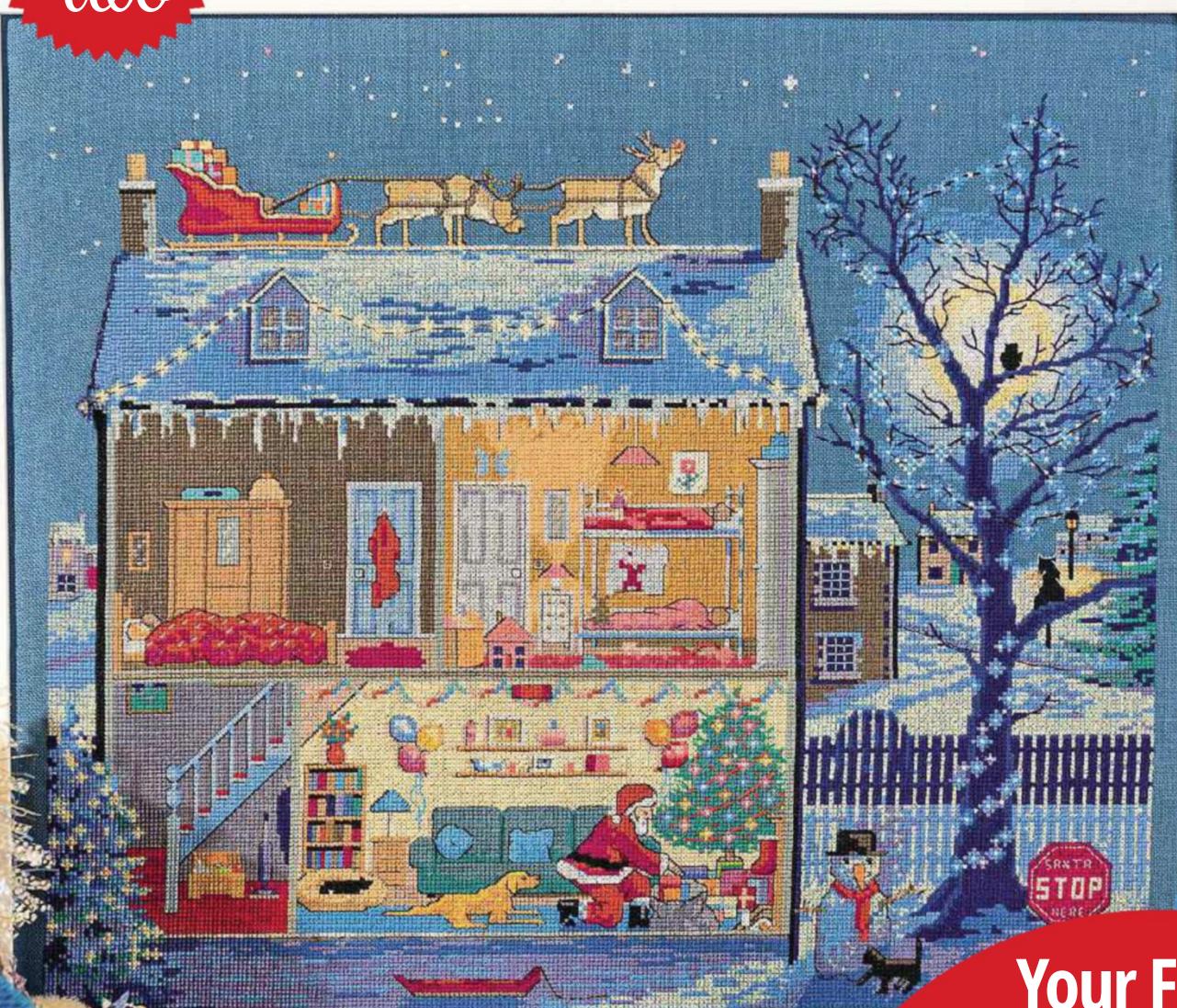
Large areas of the roof and icicles attached to the guttering, are stitched using two different colours of stranded cotton, each mixed with two strands of pearl blending filament. Work carefully referring to the chart for placement, as some areas of snow, icicles and the string of fairy lights are just stitched in white without any blending filament. Vertical and horizontal half stitches are used to work areas of the reindeer's reins and window panes, and down the edges of the main roof.

YOUR FREE FOLD-OUT CHART NEXT ISSUE

Next month we start our brand new Baby Love Trees series. Our first tree, for a girl, is festooned with sugary pink goodies and an alphabet to personalise it. Don't miss part two in issue 271, with bunting, bibs and bottles, all in baby blue.

Christmas Cut Through House **GIANT CHART**

Part
Two

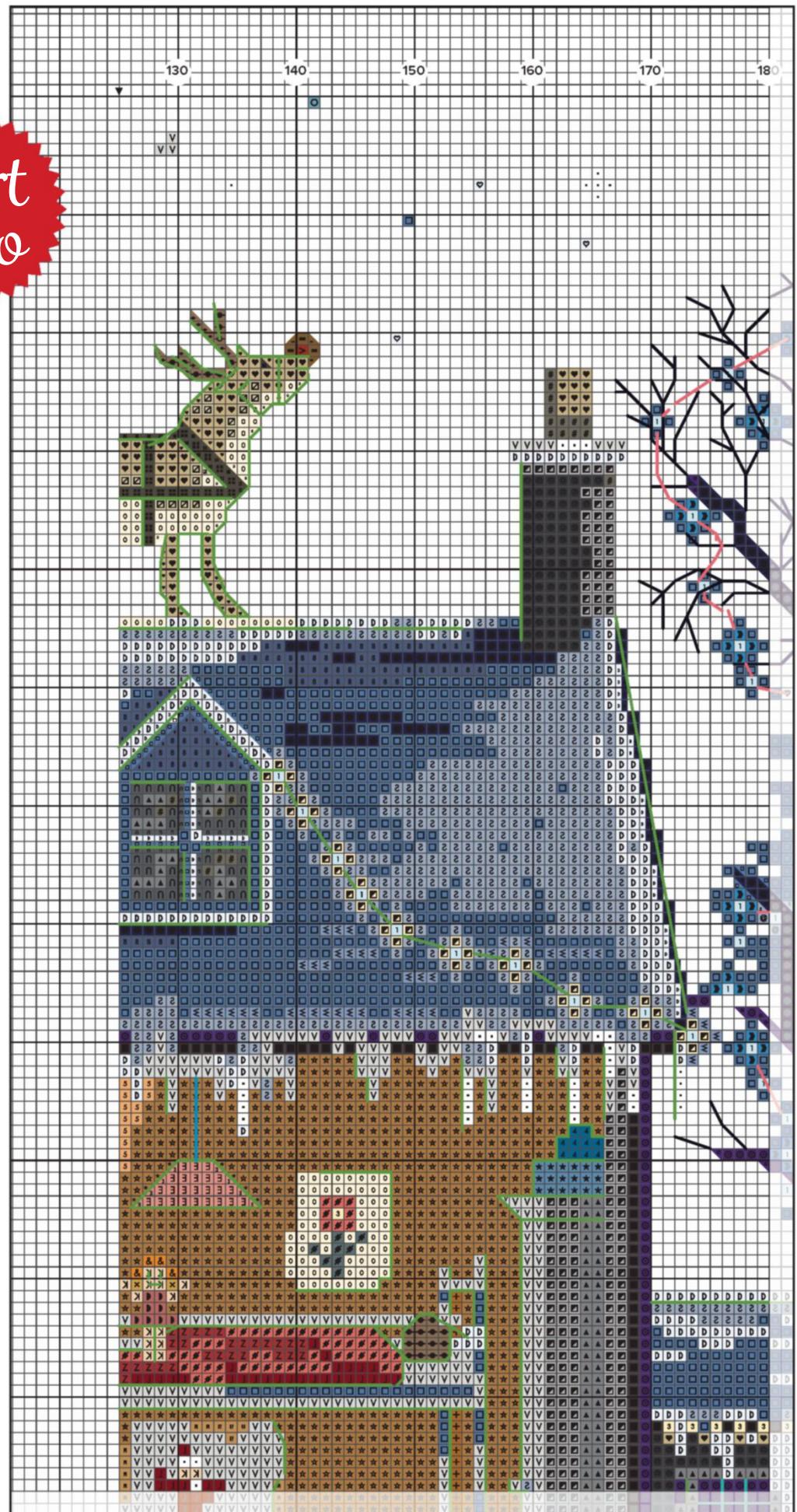


Your **FREE**
fold-out chart

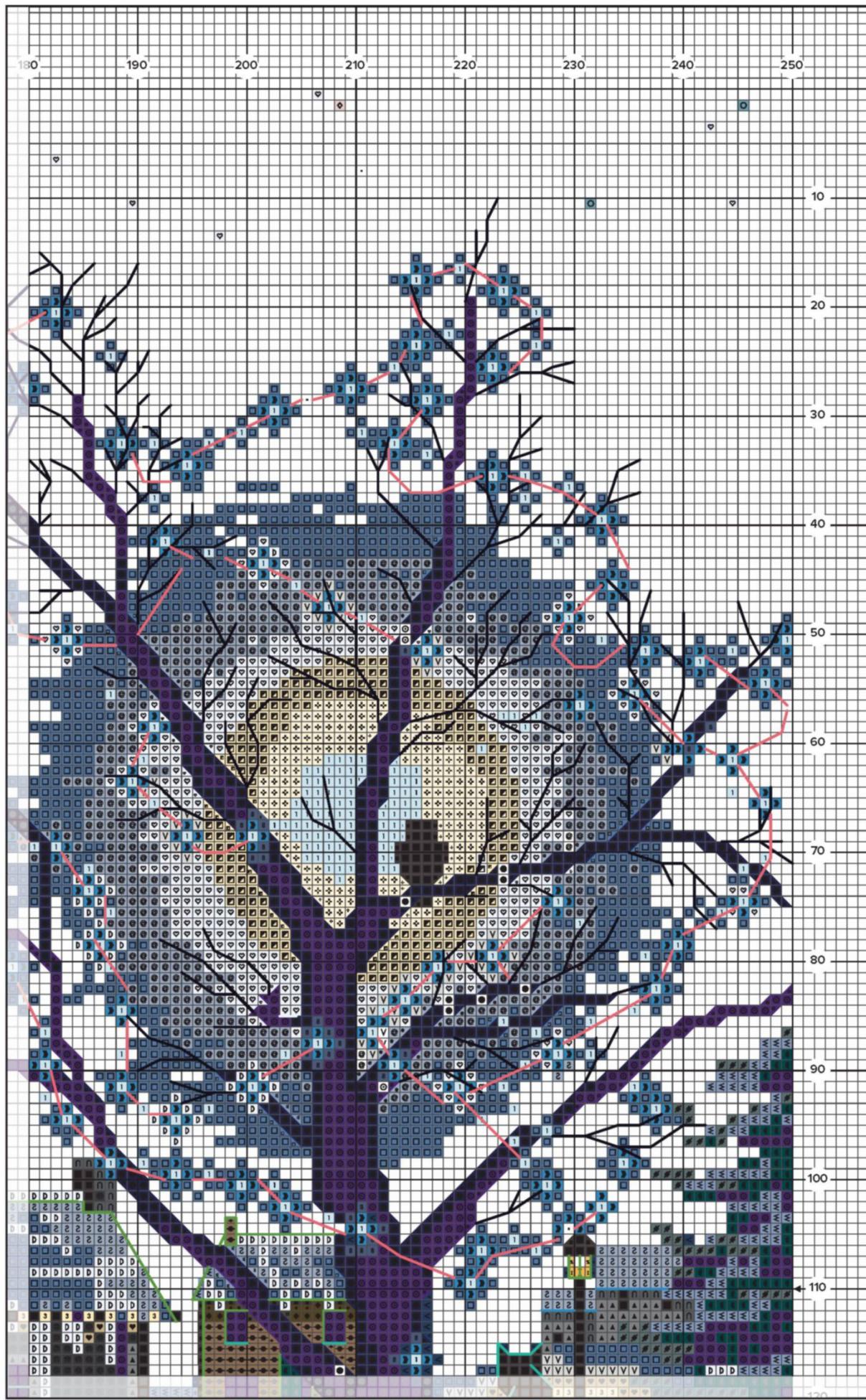


Bonus Giant Chart

Part Two



Bonus Giant Chart



Bonus Giant Chart

Stitch your Christmas cut through house

You will need...

Zweigart 28 count Cashel blue spruce, ref: 3281/578, 65.5x70.5cm (26x28in)

Stranded cotton as listed in the key

Blending filament as listed in the key

Size 26 tapestry needle

Frame with a 41.5x47cm (16½x18½in) aperture

For stockist details see page 58

Stitching the design

FOLD the fabric both ways to find the centre and start stitching at this point. The cross stitch is worked in two strands of stranded cotton, with some areas worked using two strands of stranded and one of blending filament, and others with two strands of stranded and two of blending filament. The backstitch is in one and two strands of stranded cotton. Please refer to the key for placement. It will be best to use a frame when working this design, as a hoop may rest on the stitches and distort them.

The measurements, stitch count, design size and time are for the complete design. The second half of the chart will be printed in the December 2016 issue of Cross Stitch Collection.

Designed by: Deb Lester



Take care!

This design includes some vertical and horizontal half stitches



House - part one

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	8	8	161	176	906	grey blue
	★	★	167	375	2105	dk khaki
	169		849	1802	grey	
		310	403	black	black	
	<	<	312	979	1005	med navy
	□	□	317	400	1714	pewter grey
	□	□	322	178	1004	blue
	ξ	ξ	334	977	1003	baby blue
	⚡	⚡	335	038	506	rose
	●	●	336	150	1007	navy
	~	~	353	006	303	peach
	>	>	355	1014	401	dk terracotta
	%	%	402	347	2307	lt russet
	▲	▲	414	235	1801	dk grey
	V	V	415	398	1803	pearl grey
	+	+	420	375	2104	dk hazelnut brown
	x	x	436	1045	2011	lt brown
	●	●	451	233	1808	dk shell grey
	2	2	452	232	1807	shell grey
	★	★	518	1039	1106	wedgewood
	\$	\$	581	280	1609	moss green
	▣	▣	610	898	2106	dk drab brown
	♥	♥	612	832	2108	m drab brown
	△	△	613	831	2109	lt drab brown
	■■■	■■■	645	273	1811	v dk grey
	#	#	646	858	181	med grey
	3	3	677	886	2207	lt yellow
	I	I	742	303	114	lt tangerine
	o	o	746	275	101	off white
	/	/	761	024	404	lt dusty pink
	Z	Z	777	065	513	wine
	◊	◊	778	969	808	mauve
	○	○	823	127	1008	dk navy blue
	=	=	840	1084	1912	m beige brown
	◎	◎	844	1041	1810	dk beaver grey
	J	J	915	1029	705	dk plum
	@@	@@	932	920	1710	dk blue
	K	K	950	4146	2309	desert sand
	991		1076	917	dk aquamarine	
	3023		899	1902	lt khaki	
	Λ	Λ	3688	066	605	med mauve
	3756		1037	886	lt baby blue	
	4	4	3760	169	1012	wedgewood
	3768		779	1712	dk grey green	
	3787		273	1810	dk grey brown	

DMC Anchor Madeira Colour

Cross stitch in two strands

	6	6	3803	972	2609	dk mauve
	5	5	3825	323	2307	lt pumpkin
	Ξ	Ξ	3833	1023	609	lt raspberry
	D	D	3835	098	712	grape
	»	»	3843	1089	1102	electric blue
	☒	☒	3847	1076	2057	dk teal green
	O	O	3849	1070	1202	teal green
	&	&	3853	1003	311	autumn gold
	7	7	3863	379	1912	med sepia
	〃	〃	3864	376	1910	lt sepia
	▪	▪	b5200	001	white	bright white

Now you have both parts of this beautiful design, you can choose where you'd like to start!

Two strands with one strand 032 Kreinek blending filament

	677	886	2207	lt yellow
	746	275	101	off white
	b5200	001	white	bright white

Two strands with two strands 032 Kreinek blending filament

	932	920	1710	dk blue
	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue

	3371	382	2004	dark brown outlines
	3756	1037	886	lt baby blue cat, detail on small houses
	3843	1089	1102	electric blue balloon strings

Backstitch in two strands

	355	1014	401	dk terracotta
	christmas tree garland			
	823	127	1008	navy blue
	large tree branches			
	991	1076	917	dk aquamarine
	christmas tree branches			
	3371	382	2004	dark brown
	tree light string			

Stitched using DMC threads on 28 count evenweave over two threads of fabric.

Stitch count: 220hx250w complete design

Design size: 38x44.5cm (15x17½in) complete design

Stitch time: 235hrs complete design

2/3 indicates more than 1 skein is needed

Due to the large number of shades, some symbols are repeated, but only on completely different colours.

Next Month

in your January 270 issue...

SHANNON WASILIEFF
HAS CREATED THESE
CHARMING CALENDAR
HOUSES. STITCH ONE
A MONTH ALL THROUGH
THE YEAR!



ON SALE Friday 9th December



ZWEIGART®

THE needlework fabric



ZA 385e



Quality Made in Germany



„Christmas“ chart books No. 285/275/265



Unique choice of colors